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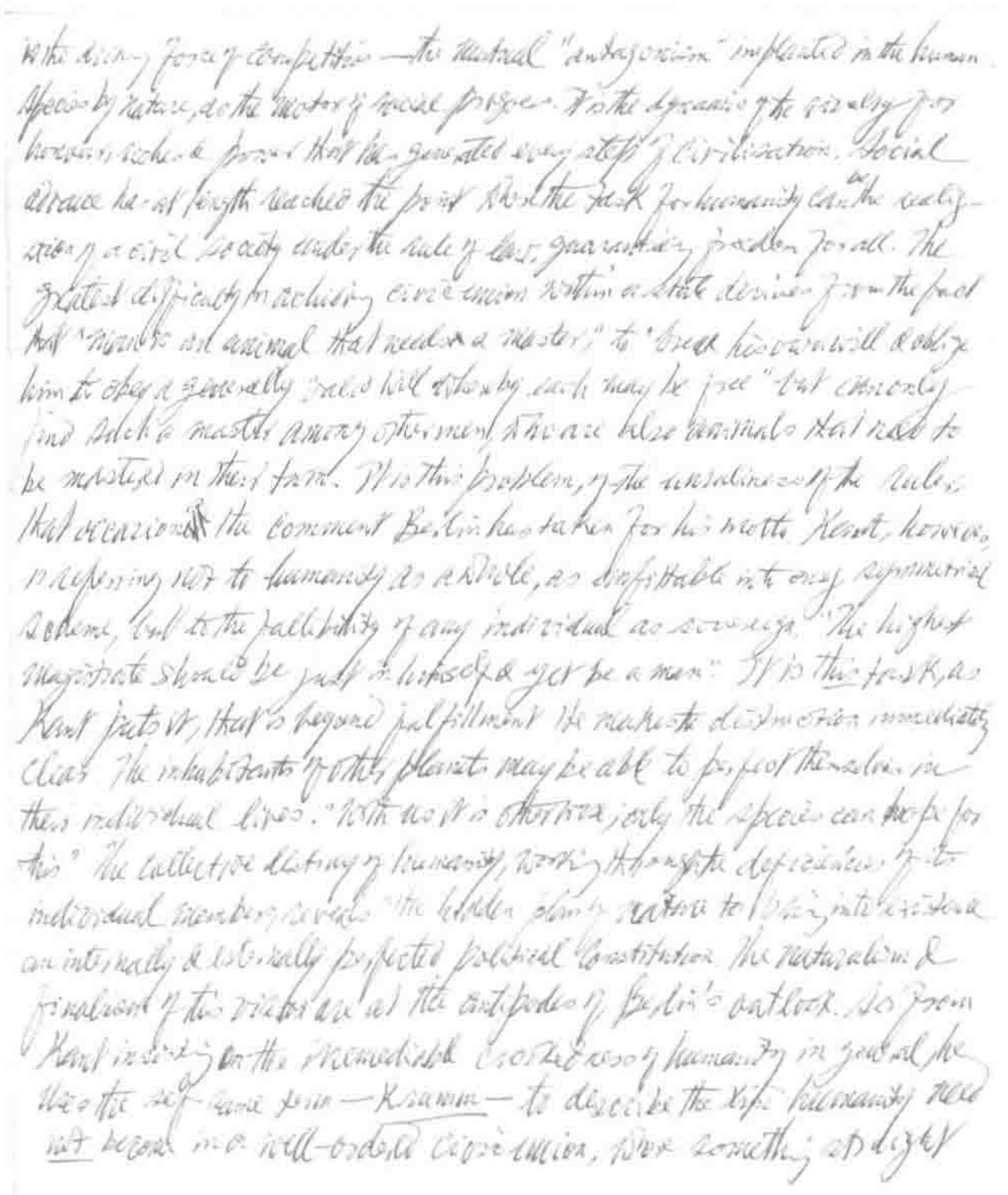

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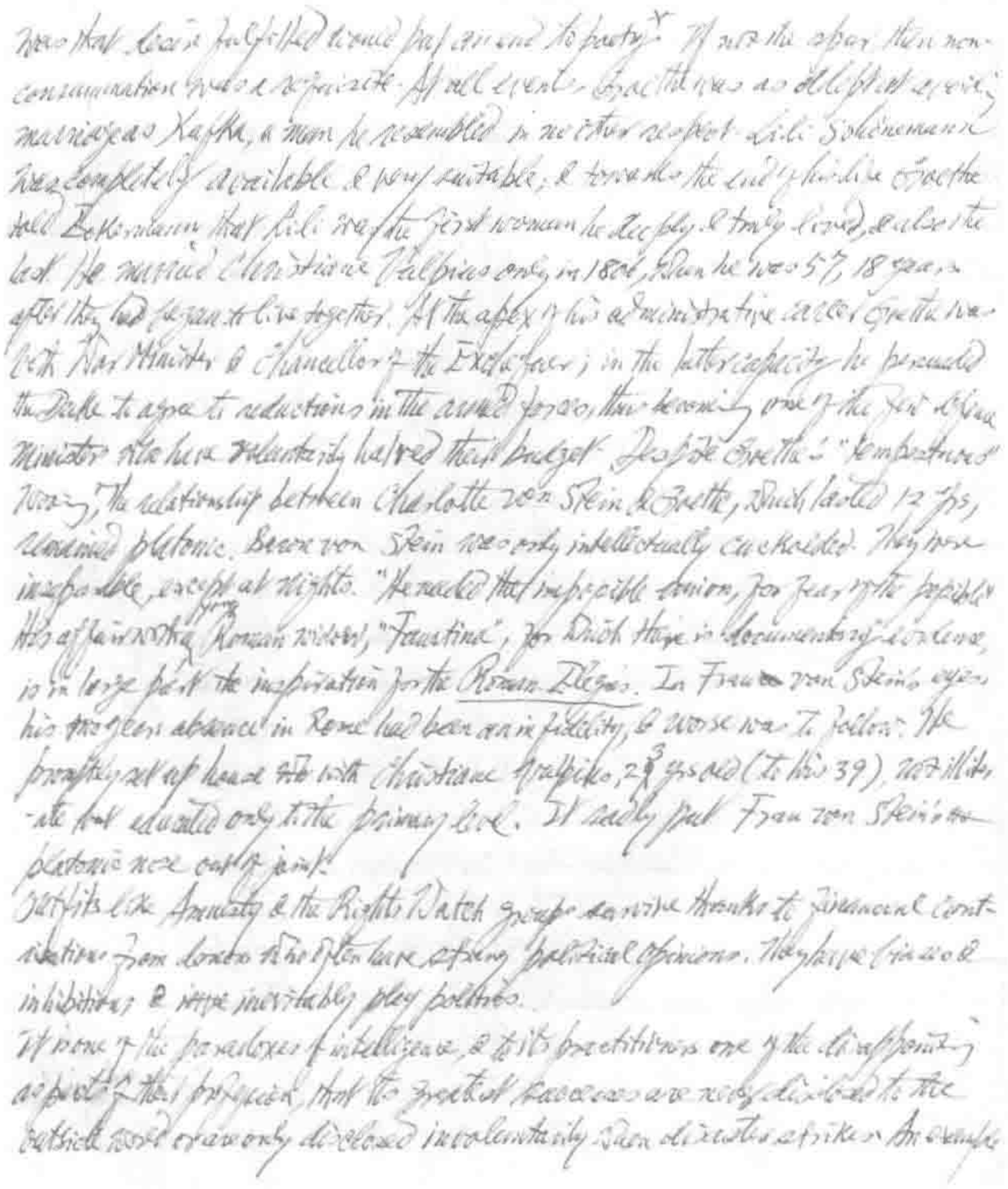

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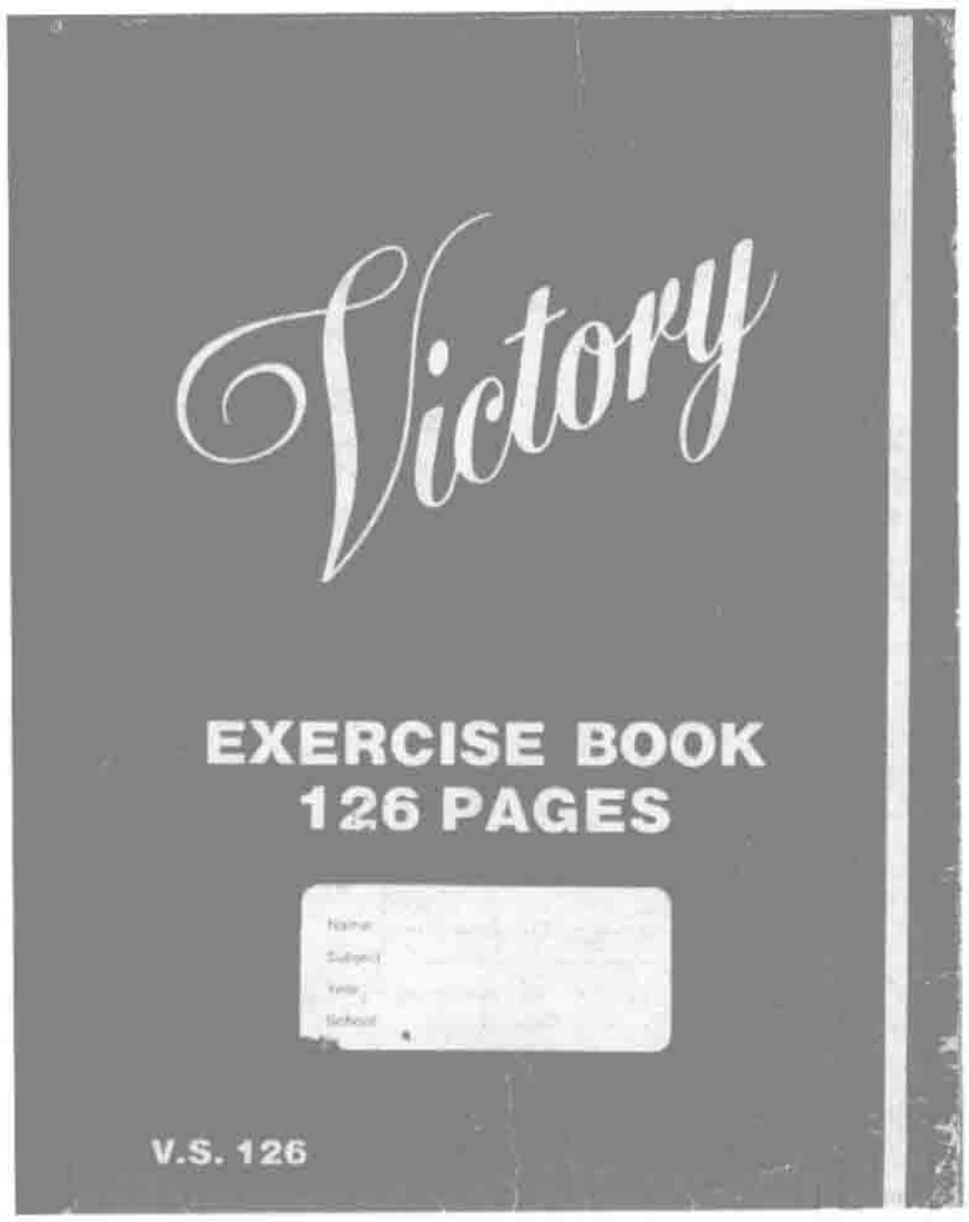

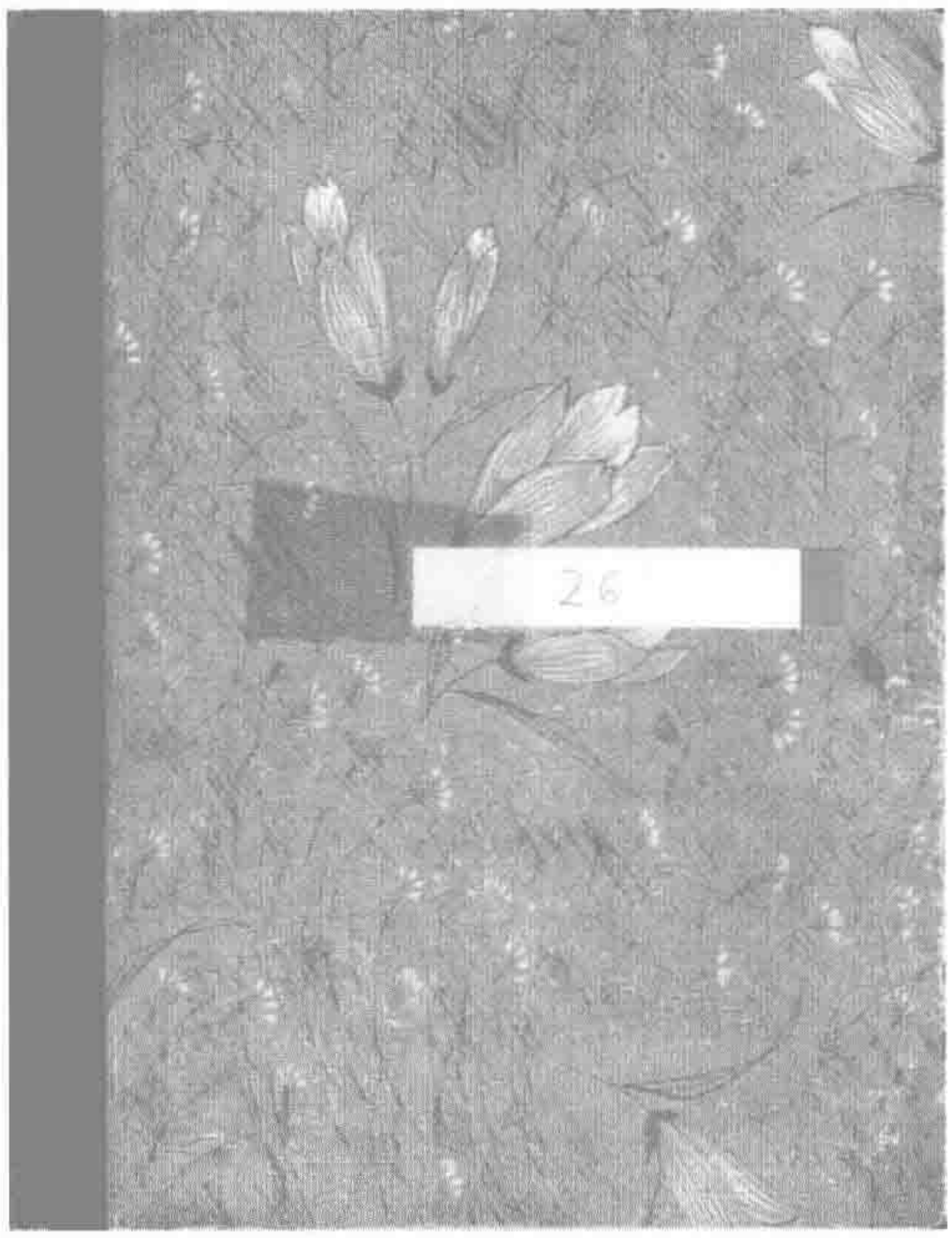

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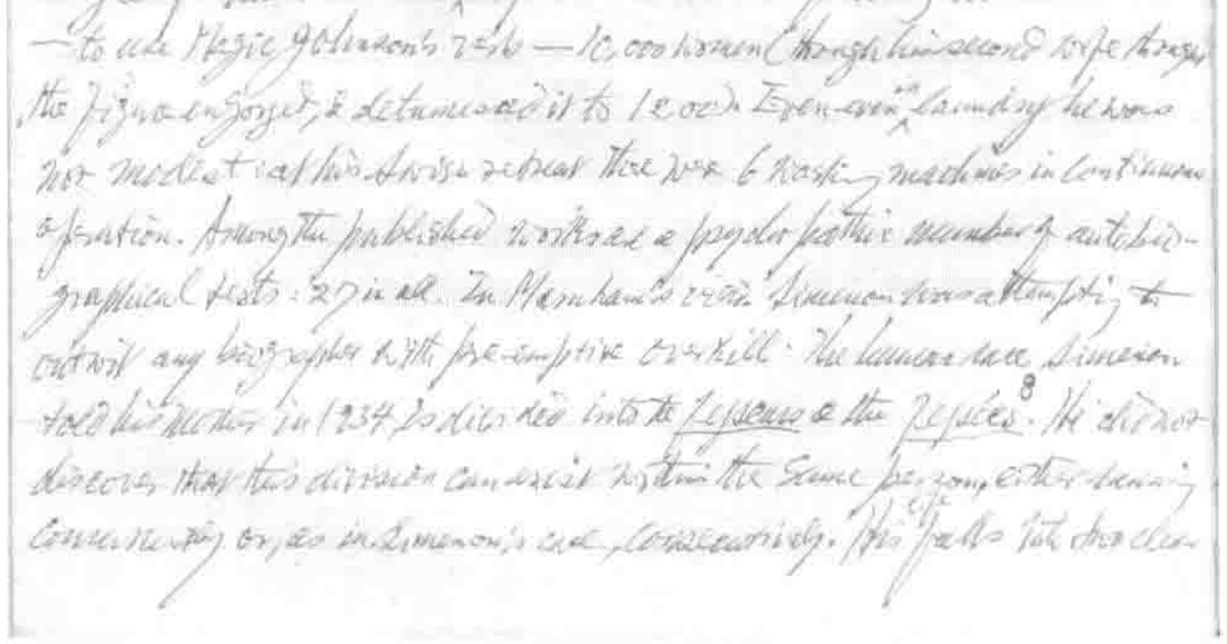

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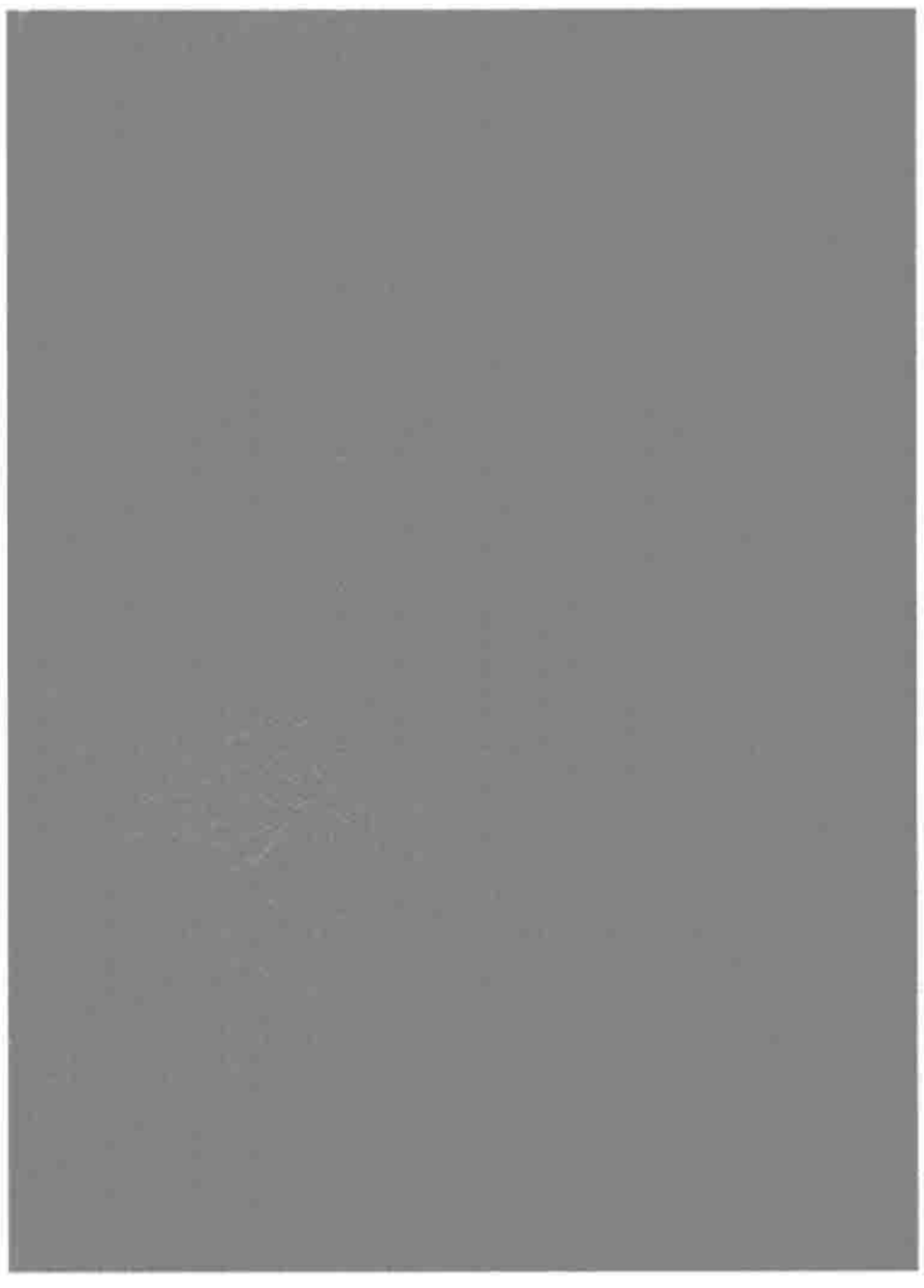

ABBREVIATIONS

Comparative Literature	Comparative Literature Studies
ELH	English Literature History
JEGP	Journal of English and Germanic Philology
MLN	Modern Language Notes
MLR	Modern Language Review
New Statesman	The New Statesman and Nation
PMLA	Publications of the Modern Language Association
RES	The Review of English Studies
TLS	Times Literary Supplement

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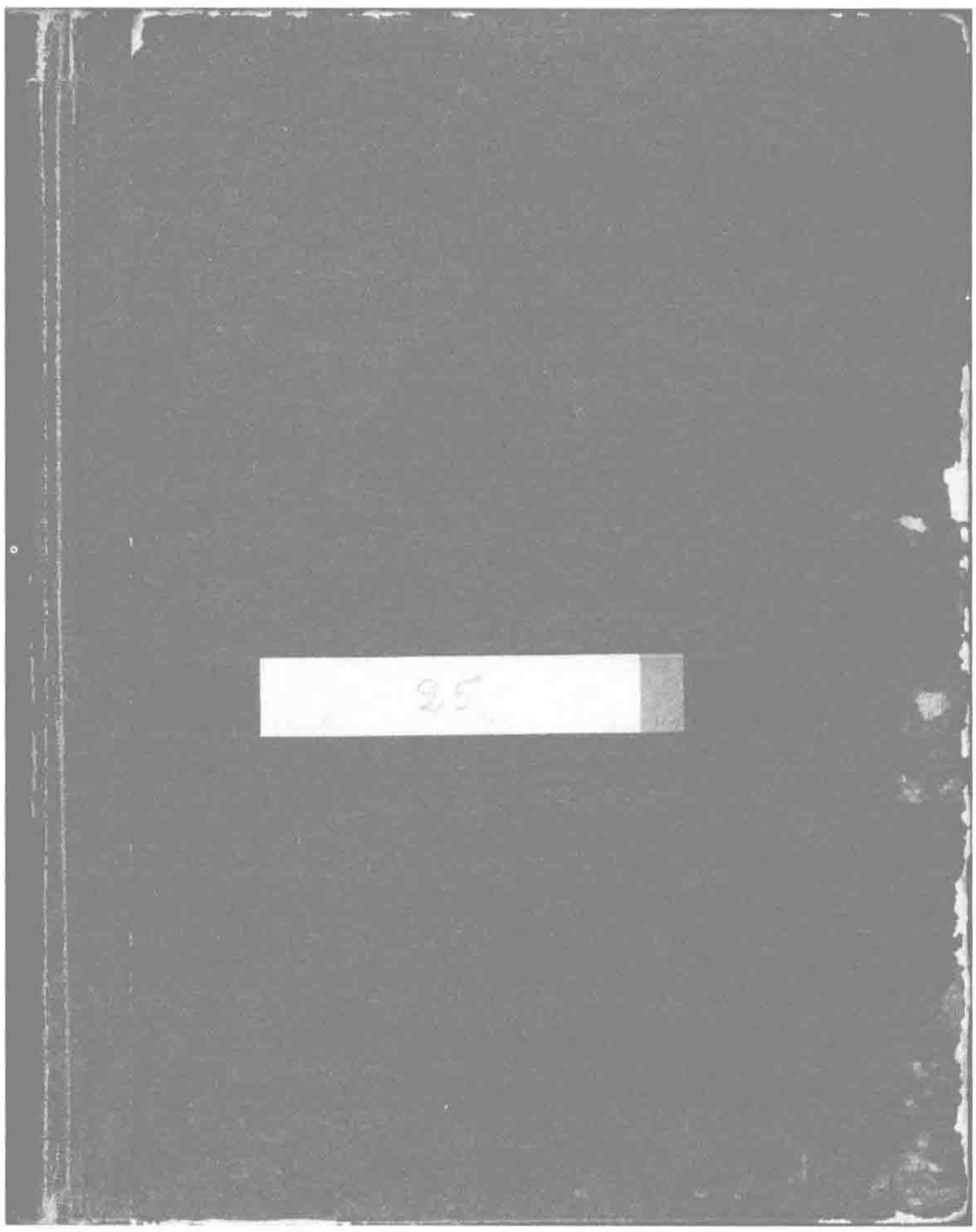

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5 London Review of Books, 20 April 1989

In February 1981 Mrs Thatcher made an ecstatic pilgrimage to Washington to commune with the new President Reagan. Her Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington suggested this expensive display. Asked by a colleague, on his return, how the visit had really gone, he replied: "Oh, they were indeed. She liked the Reagan people very much. They're so vulgar." Personally, Margaret Thatcher is not. She has immense energy, remarkable tenacity & stamina, & a good brain. But she has a shallow mind, little imagination & an immense, total inability ever to see herself as others see her. She has gone romping on & on through the last decade of British life. There is no end to her presumption. While it contributes to Tory self-assessment to say, Macmillan to privately he sought solace in his private lawns with the Northcliffe Jane Austen, what can one say about someone who, after speaking much of her day-dreaming at her Ministers, her civil servants & the Opposition about the evils of Socialism, likes to relax by "reading history with books about the horrors of Marxism"? She has developed a close relationship with the large Jewish component of her Finchley constituency. Golf-club anti-Semitism is, even today, a fairly common part of English life, & the Finchley men of 1959 took the first unusual form of the Club committee which excluded Jews by simply making it very hard for them even to speak. Their failing into Mrs Thatcher instinctively warmed to the Jewish Norman riches of North London & became to think of Judaism as an exemplary religion of capitalism. The Chief Rabbi, Immanuel Jakobovits seems to have the ambition of becoming the Spiritual Leader of Thatcherite Britain. He has strongly attacked the Anglican document "Faith in the City" as being in effect a charter for welfare scroungers & work-shy. These sentiments have earned

+ Spectator Review, May 1989, p. 52

Even a place on the Honours List. That even has seen the Jewish identification with Labour stood on its head. In old days a Jewish Tory MP was almost a contradiction in terms. In the '70s this changed dramatically. Harold Macmillan's alleged reply to the first Thatcher Cabinet list — "There are more Old Etonians than Old Etonians in this Government" — must have been automatically what many Old Guard Tories felt. There were two Jewish presences not even in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet — including at its peak, Josef Lawson, Jenkin, Richard & Britten — but among on them Mrs Thatcher leant for private advice: Alfred Sherman & the Israeli bonds. Able young Jewish MPs were natural recruits to the Thatcherite cause, not only because they often came from market-oriented careers, but because they were peculiarly alien to the forces that Thatcher was dismantling. German conservative voters, having confidence in the ability of the traditional ruling class to protect them, turned instead to the radical petit bourgeois leadership of the Nazis. Quite literally, the old Junker class & its generals were then commanded by a former Corporal. The old English Conservative leadership proved socially incapable of its defeat by a tough-minded parvenu group. The vanquished notables either quit the field altogether or are gradually re-integrated into the coalition at a lower level, on the terms set by the new upstart leadership. The Priors, Gilmours & Pyms reproach themselves for have underestimated the ordinariness of the Thatcherite phenomenon. In terms of old paradigm of Tory leadership, being a woman was itself the ultimate form of marginal outsider status; it was natural that she should promote & back the company of other marginalised men — cranks like Alfred Sherman & Paul

* cf TLS, May 5–11, p. 481 : Encounter, May 1988, p. 60

February Mystics & Lancers Wonder Boot & the born-again Brian Griffiths, entitled Betrayals like Enoch Powell & Ray Honeyford, émigrés from Britain like Alan Walters, Ian MacGregor & Robert Conquest. No Jewish Cabinet members were by definition marginal men within the Tory Party & we are grateful for the precedent. Telfer hates the Old Conservative Establishment, epitomised by Macmillan & Heath, whom he considers responsible for keeping the working classes in power. Rejoice: "he doubtless never got a corporal at the top, not a cowboy either." Lady Warnock is an old-style mandarin who at first joined considerable resentment under Thatcher — as late as 1985 she was campaigning energetically in person for Oxford honorary degree. At this point, for some reason, Lady Warnock lost patience & she now seems to be perceived as being dropped by someone like Stephen in Harris & Spencer. She is said to "feel a kind of rage" at as she sees from Thatcher on television wearing her clothes at Harris & Spencer & reckons the press are writing "obscene" about it "in a way that's not exactly vulgar, but low."

Hugo Ott, Martin Heidegger: Unterwegs zu seiner Biographie. 1988.* Ott is a social historian of 19th-Cent. Germany; born in 1931, he read law at the University of Freiburg, Heidegger's own university. A poor Roman Catholic scholarship boy, Heidegger read law & then took Holy Orders but for an asthmatic heart condition. The only evidence not available to Ott was the astonishing Hannah Arendt archive, on which the interdict *nine die* was placed by the philosopher's family. There are more than twenty large iron lockers of them. The book is a meticulous biography. Hannah Arendt's name appears only briefly, & the behaviour of Heidegger's wife (who is still alive) is not dwelt upon. He was neither a reluctant Jesuit-baiting of National Socialism nor a non-political scholar (as his

erstwhile friend Karl Jaspers believed as late as 1945) a "cloud" that soon caught by the juggernaut of Hitler's political ascent. He did not assume the rectorship of Freiburg University with the great reluctance he later professed. Heidegger claimed in his memoir "Facts & Thoughts" (1945, dismissed by the Allied Military Commission which examined his activities later that year.) He continued his election after having ousted his immediate predecessor (and the nominee of the Prussian Ministry of Culture) as the elected of the Nazi members of the Freiburg University Senate. On the back page of the programme for the celebration of his "Übernahme" election (27 May 1933) appears the text of the "Horst Wessel Lied" & the new rector's instruction that the right hand should be raised only at the 4th stanza of the "Party Anthem" (this salute (the rector adds) as well as the cry Sieg Heil! should be merely understood as a sign of allegiance of the National Socialist Party, but as the national salute of the New Germany. On May 1 1933 he officially joined the Party, with great ceremony & with the ambition of becoming the Führer of the whole German university system. His most victorious display of loyalty to Hitler was published "worldwide" a day before the National Referendum of 12 Nov. 1933. Towards his teachers & friends Heidegger appears to have been consistently self-seeking, vindictive & occasionally perfidious. This is especially true of his dealings with the aged Edmund Husserl. Heidegger went to great lengths to collect evidence of some of his colleagues' putative "non-Germanic" past in order to discredit them in the eyes of the Party & influential civil servants, obsequiously attacking his accusations when he found that, for some expedient or other, they were denounced by the Editorial

Clutterous for punishment. She did the equivalent of another PhD in research
shopping-lists of unnecessarily expedient. Live in Australia.

---

die Man he means that respect pursuing in the world & with other people that is
Constitutive of inauthentic conduct. Conduct legitimated by an appeal to 'the
average' or 'the everyday', & summed up in such phrases as 'They say' or 'It is
thought that.' 'The One [or the They] which is indeterminate & which is what all are, though
not as this or that one prescribes the fixed modes of everyday being ... Together as such
constitutes [besorgt] the average. The average is the patterning [Vorzeichnung]
of all that can & may be ventured, it watches over every exception that appears in it.
Every kind of priority is silently suppressed. Overnight everything original is instantly glossed over as long since familiar. This [das] the average flattens once
more the essential fundamentality of being in the world [Dasein], which we call the
level, tonality and possibilities of Being [Sein]. The simple fact is that the
philosopher who has analysed inauthenticity of man's Dasein is among the most astute practitioners. His astonishing political judgment that Hitler's
National Socialism paid Germany (& Europe) finally) the only chance
of being saved from domination by technology --- witness his Leipzig proclamation. Why Georg Lukacs broke in his Stalinist days is an unimaginable mystery as
this passage. Heidegger, a small-town rich car enthusiast, was the founder & leader
of a Nazi summer camp in which military training was to be combined with
political & philosophical indoctrination; the camp collapsed in a welter of
intrigue. His date for disillusionment with National Socialism as the end of
1933, though he only resigned as rector on 23 April 1934.
The jack-tabloid battery of "rap", "hit", "probe", "axe", "hoax", "romp" & the rest.
Either by equating the "truth" about a writer with what that writer has
specifically chosen not to reveal, or by accepting what he has revealed too

Roy Porter & Mikulas Teich, ed. Romanticism in National Context
1988 Cambridge, £.6.95
" " " English Romanticism in National Context - 1981

literally. A. N. Wilson remarks in his biography of Tolstoy that "Emotion recollected in tranquility" is another phrase for making things up after the event." Geoffrey Hartman: "What if in 'Mistrine' Coleridge's coining the word-plagued mind suddenly hears 'strike'?" Well, so what if it does. Maybe it should consider kicking the habit

Literary Review, May 1989

"Sir Robert Walpole was acting as a "sober prime minister", engrossing all government business to himself & surrounding himself with creatures who presented no threat to his position.

"E.M. Forster described Cavafy as being "at a slight angle to the universe", cultivating the position of observer. Plomer's sexual activities lay behind his habit of compartmentalising to such an extent that surprising numbers of his friends failed to realise that he was homosexual. During the War, when a nice-looking trouser [sic] on Paddington station had him arrested & it took the combined ingenuity of Ian Fleming & the Naval Intelligence Division to extricate him

"Although Paul Robeson fellow students at Rutgers prophesied that he would be "the leader of the Coloured race in America" the lad paid little attention to such silly predictions. "I never take dictation from a nigger," said a stenographer in the legal office where he was employed. He went on the stage because black lawyers couldn't make a living. He did very well, but artistically & financially only by being black. Whenever there was a call in musicals, operettas or spirituals could be devised or the dust blown off a minstrel production of Othello. His powerful & articulate wife Essie (who may have had

The Roman writer who didn't know the origin from an intaglio"

---

him into marriage with a false pregnancy) wisely decided to give Be patent Paul the longest leashes. He was attractive to Dutchwomen, but he never talked of his conquests. As the latter say in Java, "the niggers will come & rape our women & our women will enjoy it." He caused himself no end of trouble by persistently espousing the short-lived, short-sighted cause of black communism. He became & remained an apostle of Stalinism, defending Stalin's show trials, praising the Soviet interventions in Hungary & Czechoslovakia, etc. His last 20 yrs were horrible – a catalogue of suicide attempts, electric shock treatment & sclerosis simply destroyed his brain.

35 Margaret Thatcher has her own version of permanent revolution. There is no time for resting on laurels. She sleeps for only 4 hours a night & never takes a holiday, apparently convinced that Socialism will come creeping out of the Wainscoting the moment her back is turned. Just before the 1987 general election she promised – or threatened, according to taste – to "go on & on". A psychiatrist of my acquaintance told me that everyone of his patients has known all about Mrs Thatcher. It may, indeed, have been the thought of her that drove them over the edge in the first place. Those eyes! That reboric, Stafford-wives voice! Those interminable homilies about her father! She has, some say, benefited from Hormone Replacement Therapy, the fashionable rejuvenating technique for women d'un certain âge that has been promoted with such manic zeal by Teresa Gorman MP. In the Satanic Verses she is "Mrs Torture" & "Maggie the Bitch"; in Penelope Farmer's Charlotte Sometimes she becomes "the Malignancy in No 10". My eyes began to glaze over the pages of Anthea George Brook & Nicholas Wapshott). The affair of the Oxford honorary degree or the downfall of Francis Pym might have been riveting at the time, but they are like

energetic housework alternating curtain & cooking.

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of the palace racing ms. Alderman Alfred Roberts's daughter has claimed that she grew up in a household of spiritual richness but material poverty. Hugo Young points out, however, that it could more accurately, described as a home of aggressive thrift. Margaret has cited as evidence of her disadvantage the fact that the house had no inside lavatory or running hot water until after the war. But even before the war the Alderman was prosperous enough to buy a store shop: "Choice not necessity led him to make his family take baths in an unplumbed tub for the first 20 yrs of Margaret's life." Young notes the extraordinary fact that, in her Who's Who entry, she describes herself as daughter of Alfred Roberts & not other. Her mother Beatrice is excluded altogether. Young does not, also, mention the Alderman's reputation as a gossipy female customers & his libidinous banter behind the bacon-slicer. "She doesn't understand many jokes... & She seems to have few friends." Suddenly one discerns another motive for her determination to stay "on & on" as P.M.: how else could she persuade anyone willingly to endure her company? Her friends are almost all ex officio as are all her interests. Even Ted Heath had his organ & his yacht. For her retirement is a lonely & bleak prospect. No wonder she is afraid of the dark & always carries a torch in her handbag.

Epsom Nelson is on the side of Lord Longford, creating Aids & Venereal disease & causing Hell the pill threatens cancer & thrombosis.

Robert Moffat[49] met a Burmese Boy woman, after centuries of following their men, now walked ahead. He said the use Many unexploded land mines since the war.[52] In 1964 there were 38 Jewish Labour MPs & 2 Tories: in 1987 the balance changed to 7 Labour, 16 Tory Mrs T.'s Chief Rabbi Lord

Jakobovits, "saxon in love with sound of his own voice", has published From Doom to Hope; he wants the death penalty back & laws against homosexuality & adultery — & lots against rowdy romantics. Mgr T. is other publishing Jewish background. Nigel Lawson, Malcolm Rifkind, Edwina Currie, David Young, Keith Joseph, Michael Howard. I suspect Mgr T favours Jews for the same reason that she loves Parkinson: their unlikely Irish Catholic upbringing & the many provincials of age & class, who brought up with Jews as alien & inferior. All 4 Jewish holders of the Order of Merit are foreign-born — Isaiah Berlin, Ernst Gombrich, Sally Zuckerman & Max Perutz (technically a Catholic by religion). Edwina was only echoing Her Mistress's Voice in condemning NHS spongers. The trouble is that people of Jewish background (Edwina is not Anglican) are often known more, & less, than average. When Mgr T. talks in a clever code, Edwina gives the message clear & gets the flak.

Val Hennessy (Lady Laurens Van der Post) attracted Isherwood by her penchant for plain speaking: she had described Dr Leavis's "The Waste Land" as "a handjob by a pain-in-the-arse" in a lengthy article for Connolly's Horizon. Edited by Isherwood's California retreat, Val soon came to blows with her host. "He fell out with many things". "If you're a camera" screamed Val, throwing a 1st ed. of Goodbye to Berlin at its author, "You're a bloody cricket". Her short stint as editor of the TLS also ended with one & she inaugurated a "Ratbag of the Week" section by describing Sir Isaiah Berlin as a "pretentious pseudo-intellectual so-called pen-pusher". Her brief & tempestuous marriage to Sir Harold Acton. Her present marriage to Sir Laurens Van der Post may prove more successful.

6 antiques springing up like mushrooms & die like mayflies
The Japanese in London, short & not table English.
*Zur Genealogie der Moral, IIIte Abhandlung, I: Lon Marx's "Ruhe ist
1 counted, May 1989

Japan's exported goods before the War a byword for cheap shoddiness was still competitive in price but of a quality that we can hardly match - backed by conscientious service — are everywhere outrageous. In 1901 Basil Hall Chamberlain warned: "Old Japan is dead & the only decent thing to do with the corpse is to bury it." In these days the Japanese were self-consciously in State pupillari; & were loathes condescended to. Japanese in Britain were shocked by a British ex-prisoner's threat to starve himself to death in protest against Prince Philip's attendance at Hirohito's funeral. A Japanese businesswoman said: "If you have failed to forget, perhaps we have failed to remember"

In France, la journée continue has been replacing the old two-hour lunch break

50 In his notorious Rectoral Address to the University of Freiburg, Heidegger evidently wrenched a phrase from Plato's *Republic* into the German "Alles Grosse steht im Sturm" (All that is great stands in the storm). What Plato says: "All great attempts are attended with risk; hard is the good as men say" (Jowett). Heidegger made his German rendering sound Stürmisch, & calculated to make it a young SS man see the community of Freiburg students as one struggling. Heidegger was not anti-Semitic. The thought of the Jewish philosopher Bergson, Simmel, & Husserl had played too great a role in his intellectual formation for him to turn his back on them & Karl Löwith studied Bergson & shared with him in his seminars. Nietzsche in the 3rd essay of *The Genealogy of Morals*: "Our will requires an aim; it will even rather have the void for purpose than not purpose."

Nicht Nichts ('Gott')] : "Daß aber überhaupt das asketische Ideal dem Menschen so viel bedeutet hat, darin drückt sich die Grundtatsache des menschlichen Willens aus; sein horror vacui: er braucht ein Ziel — und eher will er noch das Nichts wollen als nicht wollen" (Werke, Hrsg. K. Schlechta, Bd. II, S. 839).

Barth, Heidegger: Denker in dürftiger Zeit (1953), Sec. 3, "Die Auslegung des Ungesagten in Nietzsches Wort 'Gott ist tot'". Heidegger's interpretive method is the complete antithesis of Dilthey's. Dilthey wanted to discover an author's meaning, while Heidegger is concerned to understand a work by means of whatever purpose seems most efficient to the interpreter in terms of possibilities for the future — a sort of pragmatist hermeneutics which anticipates Deconstruction's interpretation. Like the depth psychologist, Heidegger is more interested in what is unsaid than in what is said. So he can deploy the tricky argumentum a privativo or argumentum a silentio. He interprets "God is dead" as referring to the end of two-world metaphysics of Western Platonism, the material world & the real world of ideas. Like Nietzsche he attacks the Gospel of Jesus & the preaching of Paul.

In the mid-1960s, the Japanese Ministry of Education had for the second time since the end of World War II to study a change in the size of seats & desks in schoolrooms. The post-War generation had grown noticeably in physical stature & schoolchildren could no longer fit comfortably in the seats. Since the Meiji period the average stature of Japanese males had increased by about 4 inches. In the decade since, there has been another dramatic rise with the average of high-school seniors reaching 5 ft 7 inches. While the Japanese of even 20 years ago literally had to look up to the citizens of the advanced industrial societies, most Japanese today are able to look most foreigners in the eye.

Encounter June 1989

10

the greatest & most devastating attack on the reputation of Byzantium & came from the pen of Gibbon. Scott in his Byzantine novel Count Robert of Paris: "the Greek Empire resembled no existing power in its minute follies except that of Pekin." Mario Praz in his Romantic Agony subsumed a whole period of late 19th-century decadent taste under the chapter heading "Byzantium." Carducci's diatribe on the corrupt, re-united Italy: "Italy called for Rome; they have given her Byzantium." "the refinement of Christian theology by the Byzantine Church Fathers was one of the profoundest achievements of spirituality & philosophy. Early Russian chronicles tell how the pagan Prince Vladimir sent his envoys throughout the world to compare the faiths that were on offer. Islam had to appeal until the Prince heard that Vodka would be forbidden. Roman Catholic Christianity failed to charm for in their service "there was no beauty." Then the envoys went to Byzantium. & Russia was converted to ~~Christ~~ Orthodoxy

27 + British friend in Paris used to curse "the noxious potentates" whose Motorcades disrupted the city, their outriders pushing drivers aside with imperious ~~jaw~~ millet faces. Sirens wailing, they paid no heed to stop-lights Beaming beauty through the entente screen. Mrs Thatcher was bon vox radiant. She tended to lecture the guest (Gorbachov) a little about the virtues of democracy, like a matron urging marriage on a spinster. Beckett has dubbed the "twin-movement" of St Augustine's maxim: "Do not despair. One of the thieves was saved. Do not presume. One of the thieves was damned."

When the Satanic Verses was published in Nov 1988, there was no immediate outcry. It was only in Jan. that the book was burned by Bradford Muslims demonstrating. W. H. Smith stocks it. London on 14 Feb 1989 the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini announced his condemnation of Mr Rushdie & others connected in the book's publication. This was a judgment expressed in terms of Islamic law: Mr Rushdie was an apostate from Islam, & the penalty is death; the Holy Book & the non-Muslims concerned represent an assault by outside enemies of Islam which must be met by a Jihad or holy war. But the Ayatollah condemned Mr Rushdie before the latter had appeared before an Islamic court; the proceedings is therefore fast. While Tehran Radio announced a reward of six million dollars for any Iranian who succeeded in killing Rushdie, Libya offered a foreign army; but the divine operation was only offered $4 million. Just before the Ayatollah's declaration there had been rioting in Islamabad in protest against the Satanic Verses which resulted in 5 dead & 70 injured (Mr Rushdie commented: "The deaths are not on my conscience") The agitation in Pakistan was connected with the objections of political opponents & orthodox Muslims to the Presidency of Benazir Bhutto; they saw in the controversy an opportunity to whip up religious feeling against secularism. There is also some evidence that the Bradford demonstrations may have been telecommanded from Pakistan. The Ayatollah took the case up because he saw in it a convenient means of stirring Islamic revolutionary fervour in his own people after the disillusionments of the Gulf War. Despite general Muslim disapproval of the Satanic Verses, no other Muslim country followed Khomeini in calling for Rushdie's death.

An Islamic conference assembled at Riyadh followed a moderate lead by the Saudis who sent in Khomeini a declaration a mode to greet Iranian leadership of the Muslim world. Onmyosenoga the Unspeakable enjoyed the spectacle of Faisal Pinter rushing to Downing Street to beg Mrs Thatcher to display all those non-liked qualities of which he had so often publicly disapproved. There was a sudden realization among readers & media men that such things as the security services & telephone tapping had their point. Terrorism, it seemed, could be borne with equanimity so long as it's target was politicians & policemen. Anders Bize another matter. Mr Rushdie himself is rather disagreeable Diogenes. In his anxiety everyone is drenched in acid — Muhammad Gandhi, Mrs Thatcher, Britain's police etc. To Salman's credit is his liberal upbringing, & tiny voice it has got caught in the machinery. He is not safely hiding under the cover of the Special Branch. He seems doomed to live in seclusion.

T. L. S. Feb. 17-23, 1989

In One Hundred Years of Solitude, Garcia Márquez invents a terrible tribe afflicted by a terrible plague of insomnia. The insomnia leads to amnesia, & soon the victims forget the right names for things. They combat this by carefully writing the names of objects on the objects themselves. And then the amnesia becomes so bad that they forget how to read. The Cartoonist Art Spiegelman tells Studs Terkel (The Great Divide) that students in his Visual arts class have never heard of Boozy Daumier or Picasso: "Anything that happened before Andy Warhol was news to them."

The American "freak show" presented human oddities for amusement & profit. Some

Comparative Criticism, ed. Elinor Shaffer. Annual Vol. published by Cambridge Univ. Press.

Like Tom Thumb amassed fortunes. Armless Charles Tripp used his feet to cut out paper dolls. Families of dwarfs or giants were paraded about, as were fat ladies reduced to "living skeletons". The most extraordinary exhibit was Lilliputia, in Coney Island: a miniature village for 300 dwarfs.

160 The crucial problem was that Eric Gill found himself unable to grasp the doctrine of the Fall. He could not accept the idea that Eve was "literally in the V. C. (quite clean, not necessarily dirty, but only a dirty function)". He made no real effort to reconcile his sexuality & his religion: he even thought it indecent for a husband & wife to kneel together in chapel. His painful dilemma was already clear.

165 Norman Cantor (Letters, Feb. 3-9) has quite rightly described the anger felt by an increasing number of American academics as they see British scholars, their jobs in many cases their appointments could be challenged as contrary to American immigration law. Such foreign scholars can be hired only when there is no comparable American to be found — Randolph Trumbach.

London Review of Books, May 4 1989

I X must have read it somewhere & forgotten. I think this kind of forgetfulness, this false forgetfulness where things are lost but not destroyed, hidden but perhaps not for ever, is "Mexory". Not so much memories as things forgotten & found again. Remembrance.

In 1967 Enid Starkie prefaced her 2-vol. life of Flaubert with a portrait of "G. F." by an unknown hand; but the picture was in fact of Louis Bouilet. Flaubert's relationship with Juliet Herbert, the English governess who first came to Croisset in 1855, & with whom he seems to have pursued a liaison for a quarter of a century, right up until his death (Francis Steegmuller, Flaubert & an English Governess, 1980).

"Few works of importance have been executed in a garret or a palace", Gibbon pointed out, given a choice, opt for the latter palace. He had his library of 4000 books, his pug dog & his 6 servants. His book swelled to six vols. his vehicle also swelled due to a hydrocele, "almost as big as a small child."

London Review of Books, 18 May 1989

"Peter Feibleman followed his mistress Lillian Hellman, author of the book in hand, to her dying bed. When they became lovers, in 1963, Peter was 28 & Lillian in her early fifties. She decided to write her memoirs & become "a self-propelled American folk-heroine". She antagonised "the ladies club", who felt their own activities put in the shade by her self-promotion. Mary McCarthy said "Every word she writes is a lie, including 'and' & 'the'." She grew jealous & set a private detective onto Feibleman & Peter.

London Review of Books, 1 June 1989

3 A good way of remaining authentic yourself is to lampoon the inauthenticity of your rival, as Somerset Maugham did to Hugh Walpole in the character of Alroy Kear in Cakes & Ale, & as Greene did to JB Priestley as Mr Savory in Stamboul Train. Poor Walpole wrote of Alroy Kear: "Read on without increasing horror. Unmistakable portrait of myself. Never left" — & in the morning he rang his friend Priestley to ask his advice. Priestley sensibly extracted from Maugham a denial amounting to an apology, & honour was satisfied. Priestley's own firm, Heinemann, was publishing Stamboul Train, & in the then state of Greene's finances, its withdrawal would have been catastrophic. Fortunately Priestley was content to compel Greene to remove reference to himself & his

fingers, pipes, Dickens, & novels with two hundred characters which sold a hundred thousand copies.[5] Myopic & destructive simplemindedness is allotted ritually to establishment English & Americans; to failures, criminals, communists & disable rebels, the corrupted wisdom & salvation. The true & impartial discernment of Conrad's The Secret Agent is never found in Greene. James Bartholomew, The Richest Man in the World: The Sultan of Brunei. His fortune weighs in at something like $ $25 bn, or three times that of the Queen Elizabeth; he owns a fleet of at least 30 motor-cars; he owns the (now fire damaged) Dorchester Hotel as well a minimum of 5 other private residences in London. etc. Mr "Jimy" Rowland's Villa, pamphlet about, "A Fool & his Money". Corruption is abundant, courage is desperate. The reader can't help feeling sorry for the Sultan – if only as a poor little rich boy who has been fleeced by a succession of rogues who have conned him to Kingdom-come & back.

Christopher Hitchens shows that Congress's most ostentatious hawks are often those who avoided the draft or fabricated a war record in Vietnam. "This barely counted as Bohemian because those who did it to avoid hardly Count themselves Clercs."

Georges Vigarello, Concepts of Cleanliness: Changing Attitudes in France Since the Middle Ages, tr. Jean Birrell. The bidet was not invented till the early 18th Century, but when it was, some French ladies at least received visitors while making use of the new utensil. Even much of the Middle Ages, the man with bad, or worse still several shirts was just being

needlessly luxurious; if your shirt got dirty, you wanted till summer came & then you took it off & washed it. As for bath, when an emissary from King Henri IV found his Minister Sully having a bath, in 1610, & reported this to the King, the King, in great alarm, ordered Sully to stay at home & not stir out of his nightshirt & slippers for at least two days. It took a long time for water to be regarded as morally & medically safe. Clean clothes, especially shirts, were much more important symbolically than hygienically.

Angelica Gooden, The Complete Lover: Thos Nature & Art Pride in the 18th-cent. ~~My~~ French Novel. The presentation of the positions and series of virtuoso exercises (Caracciolo, La Jouissance de Soi-Même (1759): Les gens du Monde étudient aujourd'hui les plaisirs comme on étudiait autrefois la philosophie; ceux qui passent pour les plus sages sont ceux qui se font un système de la volupté." Les Liaisons Dangereuses offers a detailed course of indoctrination in just such a system of pleasure. The fetishisation of sexual initiation into a catechism of carnal rites had a long tradition. Witness L'Ecole des Filles (1655) which yielded Pepys ecstatic, if unsystematised pleasure. Lubricious novels describe Bembley schoolgirls & lusty novices being coached through their sensual devotions by indulgent confessors & priests. In Les Bijoux indiscrets (1748) Diderot mocked the materialist reduction of sexuality to a matter of mechanics. In one story "Des Voyageurs", he describes an imaginary island where sexual ~~matte~~ compatibility is discussed in terms of technical determinism: "Un bijou féminin en écrou est ~~destiné~~ mal à un bijou mâle en vis." Yet in his Mémoires pour Catherine

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* However, there is no more hazardous occupation than trying to read the leaves; in a world that changes so unpredictably, no one is equipped to see more than a few inches into the future.

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he recalled how he had sent his daughter Angélique for instruction in sexual mechanics to the former founder Mlle Bécheron, who used wax dolls made for the purpose [qui avaient] la vérité de la nature sans en offrir le dégoût. The Marquis de Mortemil refers to Cécile as a machine à plaisir, & Valmont's instructions to the young girl read like a technical manual.

London Review of Books, 22 June, 1989

Whoever may succeed Gorbachev will have to face the same assortment of unfinished business. Even were Gorbachev to depart tomorrow, the Soviet Union would not move toward the hard line that prevailed under his predecessors. B. Benazir Bhutto's book *Daughter of the East* was actually written by the lady who did a similar biography for Geraldine Ferraro. For the better part of 2 years, the writer (the one who planned it) "worked with", as the expression goes, the author" (the one whose authority the book carries).

Aboard a garage, Eduard Shevardnadze, Andrei Gromyko's successor at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, assembled his entire staff to listen to a remarkable in-house address, lasting several hours, in which he blasted Soviet foreign policy for the mistakes of its past all the way back to the origins of the Cold War. The Soviet Union's only man of the world for much of the post-war period, Gromyko is a relentless name-dropper in his *Memoirs*. He even manages to turn a brief handshake & exchange of cocktail pleasantries with Marilyn Monroe at a Soviet reception into a five-paragraph dissertation on her suicide. He speculates that "her good relations with the USSR did not escape notice" & that she may have been "gotten rid of" as a security risk.

What attracts is job satisfaction: teaching for those — the majority, I think — who enjoy teaching. A way of life that is in most essentials the opposite of David Lodge novel, so that gives one ease that the next plate novel will be considerably at one shabby clothes battered bicycle & college brief-cases. If it's Hotchkiss's complexities, it is the job satisfaction that has gone. An increasing proportion of our time is devoted to saving our jobs, as opposed to doing them. To sitting on committees that decide which post is to be abolished; to evaluating ourselves, each other, our own departments, everybody else's department; to putting ourselves up for promotion ourselves, inventing new ways of praising ourselves, in the hope that our "research profile" will get a few more pennies next time.

Basing on his misapprehension that "motherfucker" is an epithet exclusively applied to whites by blacks, W. H. Auden wrote a squib in City without Walls: "Even Nate should be precise: / Very few White Folks / Have fucked their mothers." Sir Adolph Abrahams, on his ward-rounds at Westminster, forbade medical students to utter the word "~~pregnant~~ slightly". "Either a woman is pregnant or she not pregnant," he would say. "She cannot be slightly pregnant, boy." Lionel Trollope once remarked that Eliot was "only slightly anti-semitic". Sir Adolph is touchy about pregnancy. "Slightly pregnant" tells us that the pregnancy is not advanced (cf "early" / "late pregnancy"). In anti-Semitism there are clear degrees of degree.

Bruce Chatwin, What am I doing here. Malcolm X "alone can tell you that Stalin considered Robinson Crusoe "the first Socialist novel" and that

Mao Tse-tung's hand is 'pink as if it had been boiled'." The Colored in Benin "looked, I thought, colored sad hippopotamus. I told myself I mustn't think he looks like a sad hippopotamus. Whatever happens, he mustn't think I think he looks like a sad hippopotamus"

In aiming for gracelessness & clumsiness Wyndham Lewis is really only keeping the George Moore Syndrome: instead of a graceful mincing, a savage clowning united to the rest age. "In alluding to him, with me [Lewis], he would say 'your friend Mr Eliot', as if Eliot had been an obscure family friend, with whom I happened to be travelling ... As to ever a passing reference to him as a poet — that was the last thing that I ever, even in jest, desired to do ..." (Blasting & Bombardiering) This in Lewis's own words was an elaborate ploy, whereas Joyce genuinely 'knew nothing' of Eliot.

T.L.S. March 24-30, 1989

297 Compton Mackenzie ranked Ford Madox Ford, Cosmo Hamilton & Arnold Bennett as the three worst liars he knew. Osbert Sitwell dubbed him "Madox Fraud." A History of Our Own Times by such a man will set historians on a state of red alert. He seemed not a genius but the helpmate of unrecognized genius. Always he was on the edge of greatness, yearning to be at its centre.[298] Ford himself wrote, in collaboration with Conrad, that "a lie is a figurative truth"; & his charmingly readable memoirs were celebrated by Ezra Pound for their "wilfully inaccurate detail." Yet not since Mark de Wolfe Howe spent years editing two volumes of elegant but deluded letters in which Harold Laski described to Oliver Wendell Holmes

a mere 12 guid or the dollar equivalent.

his secret role in goverg the British Empire have American academic colds been sedulously by a mendacious Englishman. He might now be the subject of a psychological study as gripp as that of Sir Edmund Backhouse. Certainly no reader of Ford's revelations about hereditary Syphilis in the Imperial family of Hohenzollern, as confided to him in early adolescence by the royal physician "who operated on my own throat no less than 8 times", can evade sense of this extraordinary passage without knowing that Ford himself was for years the lover of a woman (Violet Hunt) with untreated Syphilis. A bent trying to make the world think better of him — & failing tragically "Mr Bennett & Mrs Brown" had a deep effect on Bennett's sales & though Bennett claimed never to have read the famous essay, he got the message. "She is the queen of high brows", he lamented in 1928; "and I am a low-brow"! It is often forgotten that one of the most influential favourable reviews of A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (which Virginia could not ~~finish~~ read because of its "unbearable boredom"); ~~that the first was by~~ H. G. Wells; that the first critic to see opportunities for a new kind of fiction in Post-Impressionist painting was Bennett. By 1924 Ulysses & The Waste Land, The Rainbow & The Good Soldier had all appeared & the manifesto of a new generation, "Mr Bennett & Mrs Brown" was about 10 years late, though as the credo of a novelist about to launch herself in a fresh direction — towards Mrs Dalloway etc.× — it was right on time. Archness is Woolf's least prepossessing stylistic trait.

Leszek Kolakowski:[320] Capitalism is human nature at work. That is why greed, so-

cialism is an attempt to spare human solidarity by coercion. Now, greed is bad & solidarity is good; but both overwhelming historical experience & common sense suggest that life in a society in which greed is the dominant motivation is incomparably better for all—including poor people—than life in a society based on compulsory solidarity. the latter cannot do nothing to eradicate greed, works for it & distorted for the noble socialist idea, from an effort to improve the lot of workers by legislation, propaganda, mass pressure, education & welfare institutions, degenerated into a malignant belief that by you can make people love each other by slapping them, an ideology & slavery. There is no symmetry between "Capitalism" & "Socialism". The former was not an ideological invention, it grew organically out of the ideologies & Trades; the latter was contrived by philosophers as a blueprint for overall economic & social organization. The Socialists propaganda against greed is a worthy & most laudable task: the priests have been doing precisely that for centuries by preaching against the sin of greed, against selfishness & self-interest; they might not have achieved spectacular results in this area, but they did achieve something. By all means, do continue!

T.L.S., April 7-13, 1989

The author of the biography is one volume behind the slow but steady procession of volumes in the Pilgrim edition of Dickens's letters. Hemingway has been seen through for a long time now: Zelda Fitzgerald, for example, called him "bogus"; & Brigid Brophy, writing in 1964, argued that he had published as E. Hemingway. It would have been hard to find a better example of a man or a brutal fascism. Ideology is a form of abstract thinking that has little use of its roots. It

is hard to lose such ideologies in the eyes: their gaze is steadfast & unwinking. How can you quarrel with statements like "the happiness of future generations" or "the struggle for peace"?

The Everest Rest Home, a Retirement Home for old folks.

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Dozens concerning the Prophet [Mahomet] are always true, by the express ordinance of Allah, or rather God. God permits the devil to imitate any creature, except the Prophet. Therefore if the Prophet appears in a dream, it is truly the Prophet, & what he says is true.

Paul Edwards says tiredly in his contribution to Studs Terkel's The Good War: "While the rest of the world came out bruised & scarred & nearly destroyed, we came out with the most unbelievable machinery, trade, manpower, money, ..." The War years had given many Americans "new gratifications they'd never have known in their lives... And the rest of the world was bloody & in pain." Under a President [Roosevelt] whose attention to detail in business was spasmodic, who was nevertheless reluctant to delegate, & who regularly manipulated individuals & organizations by playing them off against one another, agencies all hired people they did not need, people for whom they had no work, because the money was there, & it absolutely, positively had to be spent. War or peace, this basic principle of government never changed... The ideal philosophy of the US Army — if enough men & weapons are poured into a confused battle situation, an enemy can be overwhelmed rather than defeated." (David Brinkley, Washington Goes to War)

387 TLS April 14-20, 1989

In Britain, France, West Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, etc there all now established Islamic communities born of the recent migration. The Ayatollah's Rushdie campaign is, in part, designed to strengthen his claim to be the leader of all Muslims. There is a competition between Arabs & non-Arabs for primacy within Islam. Gilles Keppel tells in his Les Banlieues de l'Islam how the Turkish Imams in France consider that their people understand more of the Qu'ran than the Arabs. Those "Muslims", as much as the rest of us, have multiple identities. In Birmingham, Pathans, Punjabis, "Campbellpurs", Azad Kashmiris, Bengalis, Yemenis, Gujeratis all proclaim belief in one God, but go their separate ways to prayer. Tunisian fundamentalists accept that people should stop running about "the British Rushdie" & instead concentrate energies on the "Rushdie" among their own people, i.e. the secularizers & those who proclaim the equality of men & women.

388 Harold Bloom describes himself as "a sect or party gone", although you are meant, I suppose, to focus on the lonely heroism of "one", in fact the word "sect" is here the most telling. His theory turns on the ultimate sectarian paradox: that heresy is a reinscription of authority as well as defiance of it (which of course in turn generates further paradoxes — for example, that the "alternative" tradition had better not become orthodoxy, since its own existence is sustained in struggle).

Gala [Elena Dimitrovna Diakonova] is called as a muse for men in 1917 when she married the budding poet Paul Eluard. Eluard admired the early collages of Max Ernst & did nothing to stop the affair between Max & Gala.

They formed a ménage de trois. Though not officially divorced until 1932, Gala had by then become Salvador Dalí's constant companion & efficient business manager. The muse rapidly deteriorated into a hard-nosed mercenary virago with a prodigious erotic capacity and an addiction to gin. Dalí's fears excluded all sexual activity but masturbation. He was a voyeur repelled by physical contact with women. Gala was driven to compensate by serial affairs with a constant succession of young men impelled by her age, a Spanish fisherman & even rent-boys. Dalí liked to claim that her infidelities stimulated his creativity. They certainly did not deter him from transforming Gala's features into those of the many Madonnas of his late Catalan period. The ruinous break-up of the long Dalí/Gala partnership finally became inevitable. After her decease, however, Dalí installed himself in the castle in which she lay buried & became unable to swallow food because of her death.

TLS, April 21-27, 1989

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In the original argument between James A. H. Murray & the Delegates of the Clarendon Press there was a misdirected premise, or false equation, & the implications of this continue to confuse debate. The contention frankly became a self-parody in which "famous quotations" were set in judgment over "crackjaw medical & surgical words" & language for use taken from the newspapers. Murray's acerbic response to the Delegates' apparent inability to "acknowledge contemporary facts & read the signs of the times" was fully justified. But his granddaughter's Memoir Caught in the

Webb's the words reveals: "He held all his life to the opinion that novel reading was a waste of time." "No one man's English is all English". With the "socialism", the "pretentious superficiality of knowledge" (Coleridge) of the life, any amateur, indivisible, in Murray's case, from philological knowledge & lexicographical ability of the highest order.

Once Moscow relaxed centralized control & censorship, the native non-Russian minorities moved start to articulate their grievances openly. They have struggled for a broad range of objectives, from teaching native languages to restoring historic monuments, rehabilitating writers formerly indicted, & even winning political sovereignty. Gorbachev & his team have tried to bow to the wind. Politicians & academics are busily endeavouring to update Lenin's ideas to meet current needs. "Leninism" turns out to have been a remarkably flexible creed. Most Soviet theorists still cling to the old schema, hyped to claim that revolutionary socio-economic changes are creating a homogeneous "Soviet people" shaped by supra-national class & political loyalties. Paradoxically, Soviet policies of assimilation have also helped to build new nations in previously backward areas such as Central Asia. Where national consciousness was still embryonic at the time of the Revolution. Central Asia was also a place of banishment for those Crimean Tartars who survived deportation from their homeland in 1944 on Stalin's orders. When the other "punished peoples" were rehabilitated under Khrushchev, the Tartars (along with the Germans) were excluded. In 1967 the Tartars were exculpated from the bogus charge of war-time collaboration, but the decree did not recognize their rights as an ethnic group.

The victims of Reagan's fixed, phoney smile was becoming physically painful at the end, & its emulation on the faces of newscasters, press handlers and and other courtiers even more so. Not only did Reagan have no friends, but he had no family. He allowed his second wife to alienate him from his grandchildren & the children of his earlier union. He was never visited by any of his descendants. When he was shot by John Hinckley, none of his relatives came to see him.

419 Albert Dichy & Pascal Fouché, Jean Genet: Essai de chronologie 1910-1944. The account of Genet's early life popularized by Sartre in 1952 is not accurate. He was 7 months when the Assistance Publique entrusted him to Charles & Eugénie Regnier. He had not, therefore, spent the 1st 7 years of his life in an impersonal institution. Nor was Charles Regnier the harsh peasant farmer of Sartre's imagining or of Genet's supposed recollections in Prisoner of Love (in English edition). Regnier was a skilled artisan, a joiner/cabinet-maker. He & his wife adored Genet, & made no attempt to send him away when he began to steal. Everyone in the village of Alligny-en-Morvan knew that he was a thief. Nobody, however, seems to have taken his pilferings very seriously. The police were never called in. The famous ceremony in which Genet was publicly labelled a thief does not seem to have taken place. He got on very well with the teachers at the school next to Regnier's house. Official society did not send him to a Reformatory when he absconded, in Nov. 1924, from the École d'Alembert, the apprenticeship centre of the Assistance Publique. Instead, he was sent in April 1925 as a companion to the blind composer René de Buxeuil. When he stole a postal order from Buxeuil, he was not prosecuted.

8 of "Anorexia" (Hilde Bruch)

What Sartre called "notre abjecte société" was relatively tolerant of genius. Jain number of chances to go straight. In 1937, he deserted from the army. When he was arrested, in 1938, he was not sent to prison; instead, the army gave him good grades as an "enlistment bonus". Long after, anyone had to steal in order to eat had appeared, he continued to pinch books, etc. By transforming one of Nature's eccentricities into a kind of existentialist hero, Sartre perhaps misrepresented his early life.

The baffling disease of anorexia nervosa is emblematic of our times, a specific distinction of plenty, for it is not found among the daughters of the poor in rich countries, or in poor countries at all. It is a female malady. In the 19th century "Fasting Girls" became media heroines, & their incarceration & survival were used as proof of the sovereignty of the divine spirit over matter. A young girl called Sarah Jacob, "the Welsh wonder", began starving herself at the age of 12, in 867, & soon her prodigious existence was drawing pilgrims to her village, & incidentally bringing in some money to her family. She lay in bed, adored by her mother, as a pre-Raphaelite Ophelia, a crucifix layon her bed. Doctors from London negotiated 1000 a 24 hour watch around Sarah's bed. By the 10th day, medical science was proved right: Sarah was dead. Later, her younger sister admitted she had fed Sarah morsels in secret.

As the rich appetites lose their sinfulness, gluttony has risen in the scale of deadly sins. Daughters of affluence want, literally, to pass through the eye of a needle.

Excavations discovered old Roman army latrines equipped with sponges on the "toilet issue".

He knows the army is behaving badly (which impressed him as it does everyone), just it is good for them being world-class in its brutality. The next sentence revised, but the point still being made by the old accretion of.

intelligent keenness of telegraphese
a ~~Zeitung~~ guide that is dull companion.
conversations

If disappearance from statistics is a mark of complete social acceptance, then the Jews in Britain would seem to have achieved it. With some claims to being Britain's oldest ethnic minority — & for long the most conspicuous target for Xenophobic passions — they no longer even figure in official counts of present social groups living in this country. The Jews have joined the Scots, Irish & Welsh in that they may feature in ethnic jokes but are not seen as an ethnic group.

Fortunately political philosophy hardly needs friends. It is too well able to defy its enemies. When D. T. Hobhouse in the First World War ascribed the German air raids to Hegel, & Karl Popper in the Second named Plato as the ideologue of totalitarianism, they conferred on those philosophers the glamour of shapers of history. In The Prince Machiavelli recommends ~~wicked means~~ the use of ~~cruel methods~~ to monarchs; in the Discorsi he recommends the use of cruel methods in the service of republican liberty. The revolutionists of our time have all too readily heeded Machiavelli's advice to liquidate their adversaries ("kill the sons of Brutus") & abolish the Christian religion.

L. C. S., April 28 – May 14, 1989

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In Japan bowing is not an ethical problem. It is the normal greeting, while it is true that those of subordinate rank are inclined to bend a few degrees lower, it ranges from the highest to the lowest bows at a funeral. Among English-speakers, bowing means an obeisance; eg. head waiters bow. It has a distinct flavor of homage, of fawning, of bending the knee to Baal, especially the party bowed to has no possibility of bowing back. The eminent English-speakers mocking the Emperor

In what part
x ~~Jon~~ the "three M's" — men, money & material — in at one end & dead
enemies come out at the other!

Nowhere noticeably more economical with their bows, & two — the Duke of Edinburgh & President George Bush — managed to satisfy the requirements of the protocol while barely bowing at all. The President launched his shoulders, the gesture of a man adjusting the football shoulder-pads of his youth, while the Prince, parade-ground straight, nodded as if to a distant acquaintance one really does not have the time to talk to just now. One French-speaking commentator dismissed all the mourners as "une bande de mendiants"; Japan is surely the world's biggest creditor, awash with the cash that the rest of the world needs so badly. To the lands once colonized by the British, to the fragments of the British Empire, the Japanese are now moving to buy, to build, to develop, to afford their surplus population in the easier years — or should we say, to colonize.

Christopher Hitchens, *Prepared for the Worst*. The essay so entitled is a moving account of the author's discovery, at the age of 38, of his own Jewishness. "Vous la rigueur & la justice, on the lips of Saint-Just & Robespierre, mean la terreur, as their contemporaries knew only too well.

TLS, May 5-11

Except for 1791 & 1792, when in London & France he was immersed in the turbulent politics of revolution & millennial hope, Wordsworth lived far from centres of political or social ferment. Barely 30, he secluded himself in a remote valley of the Lake District. He defended his privacy jealously.

A Turn in the South

V. S. Naipaul is an admirer of Booker T. Washington & looks at the address on the relative decline of Tuskegee Institute from that Black-run free-standing self-sufficiency to white institutions. In the social circumstances of some Black people

in the United States there is a distinct risk that change will not occur peacefully at all but rather the exchange of one kind of tragedy for another. "This has been the great discovery of my novels not per se in the South. In a certain part of the world had I found people so driven by the idea of good behaviour & the good religious life. And that was true for black & white". Differing politically from the extreme right to the extreme left, they share a commitment to a doctrinally conservative evangelical or fundamental Christianity & a strict puritanical code

John Gould Fletcher's poems are shown up for what they are — the fag-end of fin-de-siècle fine writing. Pater plus water.

John Updike, Self-Consciousness: Memoirs. He advertises the fact that he was one of the few writers who refused to join in the anti-Vietnam protests of the 1960s. "I was happy enough to back the Reagan counter-revolution; it was the pill & anti-war, anti-establishment, anti-imperialist protest that I found oddly bitter." "A Year with My Skin" meditates on his psoriasis, & the need for forgiveness for his blemished skin, for his shame, &c.

+80 Wilhelm Reich's Character Analysis (1933) is still recommended in psychoanalytic training & represents his early, fairly orthodox, Freudian phase. Some of his essays on psychoanalysis & politics of the period 1929-34 are foundation-stones for that will-o'-the-wisp of the Freudian left — a Freudo-Marxist synthesis, e.g. "Dialectical Materialism & Psychoanalysis" & "What is Class Consciousness?" His great work The Mass Psychology of Fascism (1933) is an undoubted classic of the critique of ideology, both fascist & Stalinist. In a sense,

Reich has the dubious distinction of having been expelled from both the psychoanalytic & the Communist communities. Freud was severely critical of Reich's mixture of political psychoanalysis". Freud is said to have written *Civilization & its Discontents* as a reply to Reich's communist views, especially the idea that what is needed in society is the removal of sexual repression. Freud argued that repression is the essence of civilization. In the late 1930s, Reich moved to the United States after earlier stays in Denmark & Norway. His work increasingly focused on the belief that sexual energy took the form of a literal, supposedly measurable, "orgone" which could be accumulated, channelled & accumulated. Because he was adjudged to have sold commercial products for the accumulation of "orgone", the U.S. F.D.A. Food & Drug Administration condemned him to end his days in a penitentiary. "I am analyzing Annie Pink [his first wife] with intentions of winning her for myself – as was the case with Love" [she killed herself because Reich invalided her in an abortion]. He tells us that he climbed on top of a servant & fondled her at age 4, stuck a whip-handle into a little girl's vagina soon thereafter, first had intercourse at age 11 & continued to do so almost every day for many years with the family cook & then with prostitutes. Sándor Ferenczi was Freud's pupil & intimate friend. After Jung's defection, it was on Ferenczi that Freud placed his hopes for the future of psychoanalysis. But as he began to advocate a marked departure from current technique – a more open & spontaneous attitude to patients – he provoked fierce disfavour among the orthodox. He went so far as to allow a patient to kiss him – a "kissing technique"! Passion, Ferenczi believed, cannot be excluded from the therapeutic encounter: "No analysis can succeed if we do not succeed in really

H.J. London Review of Books · 20, April 1989; Encounter May 1989, p.60

for/in the patient". He developed "mutual analysis": sessions were arranged, part time for one, when Ferenczi allowed himself to be analysed by the patient.

481 * Hugo Ott's even-handed book Martin Heidegger: Unterwegs zu seiner Biographie will prove even more of a setback to Heidegger's rehabilitation than Fari Victor Farias's (ill-tempered & tendentious) Heidegger et le nazisme (1988). Heidegger maintained that only his philosophy could provide the proper spiritual leadership for Hitler's "revolution". In 1945, with Germany in ruins he wrote to a friend: "I cannot now think of downfall. We Germans, however, cannot go down because we have still not given of our best. We must persevere through the night." He was soon confronted with the hard facts of military occupation: he was forced to share his family home with the homeless; the authorities threatened to expropriate his library; he passed through several denazification hearings before the hands of the University Senate & of the French authorities. Heidegger turned for help to friends such as Karl Jaspers, Rudolf Bultmann, & Freiburg's Archbishop Conrad Gröber, but these attempts at reconciliation were impeded by his increasingly defiant attitude towards his friends' insistence that he come to terms with his own guilt. Finally, in the spring of 1946, he had a nervous breakdown & spent 3 weeks in a sanitarium. His lifelong health problems (heart trouble caused by "too much sports" as a youth); his deep interest in Greek poetry & romantic German literature; his change of confessional ties from Catholic to evangelical Protestant to agnostic. He enthusiastically supported Hitler in 1932, met secretly with pro-Nazi colleagues to arrange for his own election to the Rectorship & of the University of Freiburg to oust his mentor Husserl..

orchestrated dramatic ceremonies to announce his entry into the Party & to have himself installed as Rektor, encouraged Hitler to complete the needed total. totalitarian alignment (Gleichschaltung) of German universities, black-balled "un-German" professors (including Hermann Staudinger), ordered his students to take part in para-military training, adopted the militaristic vocabulary of the proto-fascist Ernst Jünger, proclaimed himself Führer of the University, and voluntarily attacked Catholic & Catholic organizations (perhaps because of disappointment in not being admitted into training for the priesthood). He also declared that the First World War had proved that the Judaeo-Christian God was dead & that only the creation of a new world founded on Hölderlin's poetry, guided spiritually by Heidegger's philosophy, & led politically by Hitler's state, marshalled — could save Germany & the West from the nihilistic forces of modernity, industrialism, capitalism & communism. He resigned his Rectorship voluntarily, having discovered his own administrative ineptness & the Nazi leaders' use of him merely as a symbol. Despite ~~his~~ feelings in his treatment by Husserl, he was not guilty of the slanderous charge that he barred his mentor from the university library in 1933-4. He retained a belief in the "inner truth & greatness" of National Socialism until the end of his life — as do his lectures on Hölderlin & Nietzsche from 1936 to 1944. He had delusions of grandeur, convinced about his own fated role as Germany's spiritual leader, a "monstrous hubris" in his post-War belief that he alone knew what was required for the West to make a "new beginning". Like a phoenix arising from the ashes he soon became a leading figure

amitiés de style (pen friends)

in the French academic scene. A fawning letter, written by Jasper, at the unofficial request of the University Senate, led to his forced retirement. He had to swallow the bitter pill of exercitus status.

Some poets make sordid exits. Like Dylan Thomas & Edgar Allan Poe collapsing into alcoholic stupor. Perhaps the most disgusting fate among them was that of Baudelaire, whose agony began in a cheap Brussels boarding-house, where the lecherous stage of Syphilis reduced him to a living corpse, capable only of repeating the obscene oath "Cré nom"

At the beginning of De Rerum Natura Venus is celebrated & adored as a complex personification of the entire working of nature; in Book IV (the last 250 lines) the name Venus reappears as a simple metonymy for sexual desire, & gets rough treatment in a declamatory diatribe against love.

TLS, May 12-18, 1989

504

Whatever the rights & wrongs of their case, it is hard not to feel sneaky admiration for the stamina of those women who, apparently effortlessly, cope with a full-time job, two children under three, as well as a long-term affair with their husband's best friend. But, more to the point, how do people handle the constant danger of discovery & the constant pressure to deceive? What does it feel like always to be sitting next to the MP or a high-ranking civil servant's wife, & simply to dismiss a (probably unsatisfactory) 20 minutes in the back of the car with your paramour? What is the fun that people get from those dinner parties where they must coolly conceal from the other guests that Marion is not the host or hostess? And what the hell do they talk about?

Holmes in Schenk v. United States, 249 US 47 (1919): "The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man falsely shouting fire in a theatre, & causing a panic."

Paul Robeson Jr. is convinced to the very end that his father's illness & death were brought about by the CIA & MI5. He went so far as to believe that his mother Eslanda & not so far was a party to the destruction of his father. Nothing stifled & damaged equality than superiority & all through his life, in any field he entered, Robeson demoralized & thereby demonetized the equality of his race. At Rutgers College he was 1 of 4 undergraduates, in a class of 80, admitted to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. Twenty years old he was chosen to play on the All American football team. His path was strewn with humiliations & insults: the cat called "Nigger" from the grandstands; the secretary in the law office who refused to type "for a nigger"; the head waiter at the Algonquin Hotel who refused to seat Robeson even when he was a star on Broadway. Throughout his adult life, he contended with white women. All roads lead to Othello - the peak of a great career. Even his pro-Soviet politics gave no public offence. But the FBI was already amassing an enormous Robeson file. He made love to the stage Desdemona of stage (Peggy Ashcroft as well as Uta Hagen). Sexual union with a white woman was Robeson's great symbol of racial equality. He chose, in Eslanda, a black wife who looked white.

-Literary Glasnost has so far largely taken the form of publishing long-banned works like Dr Zhivago

5/2 "Goodbye. I your new Danish translator am." The old joke about encountering your translator for the first time is often easily correct. My Norwegian translator actually concluded one of his letters to me thus: "Hey listen, man, if you're ever in Oslo I shoot you beer you can crash in my pad anytime." After I stopped laughing I started frowning. If this was his idea of English, how was his Norwegian. The hope earnestly for the best, brace to duck & try to suppress those horrible suspicions. — William Boyd.

*"Trojan Boar", 三套鴨, 譯音設想

5/9

In the Czech author Bohumil Hrabal's novel I served the King of England, the hero & "I", an undersized tinde-waiter, once served the Emperor of Ethiopia during a royal visit (on the menu, a roast stuffed with an antelope with a turkey inside, & inside the turkey, fish stuffing & boiled garlands of hard boiled eggs).*

TLS, May 19-25, 1989

531

Cuba, together with the States of Central America, had before paid the price of freedom by being taken for granted; before 1959 to specialize as a historian in Cuban or Central American history was a passport to obscurity. The geographical, sociological & economic cleavage between Western Cuba dependent on Havana, the large arsenal & colonial metropolis which has tyrannized the country up until the present with its macrocephalic growth, & Oriente, with the second city, Santiago, which declines into somnolence, untouched by the sugar revolution of the early 19th century. In the Mid-nineteenth Century many rich planters fled annexation to the United States as a way of preserving the slave-based plantation system. Blacks & women are the two groups who have perhaps benefited most from recent changes, although no fair can entirely remove a residual racism & machismo attitude. France has had its Lafayettes, its Trotskys, even its Pétroleuses, Mexico its Soldaderas & Russia its Mme Kollantays, but in no revolution have women been as prominent as in Cuba, first as Couriers in the guerrilla struggle & then in the Federation of Cuban Women., after the foundation of the Federation of University Students (FEU), students usually in the vanguard of the Castroist movements

5-334

It is a wonder that Stone spends so many words — so many words about words about words — in the attempt to communicate. Surely a sincere belief in the ineffable is incompatible with the need to go on affing it? In 1931, at a meeting of the Société Française de Philosophie, the possibility of a distinctively Christian philosophy was the subject of a fierce debate between Emile Bréhier & Etienne Gilson. Bréhier maintained that the idea was as nonsensical as the idea of a Christian mathematics, & Gilson ~~maintained~~ claimed that philosophizing within a Christian frame work did not involve any sacrifice of the autonomy of philosophy but rather its enhancement through subjection to the truths revealed to man in Scripture.

341 It was a momentous occasion when the Convention silenced & shut down women's clubs on October 30, 1793. Typical of women's theatrical orientation is the Déclaration des droits de la femme by Marie Gouze. Known to Jacobins & Cordeliers as Olympe de Gouges, & to spectators, some "hermaphroditic" Société à (since Cadets) was founded by Anne-Joseph Théroigne) had admitted them as members. In 1793 Claire Lacombe & Pauline Léon helped found the great sans-culotte Club des Citoyennes Républicaines et Révolutionnaires. In January 1795 posters & mass women were seen in Paris demonstrated food supplies, pillaged shops & held carnivalesque hostage. 6th captured drunk, women marshalled the poor & incited male sans-culottes to fight for the implementation of democratic political causes of women & blacks were linked by many liberals: Condorcet was both a feminist & a member of the Société des Amis des Noirs. Under the ancien régime women's political-means of communication were limited & indirect. Those close to the throne might influence appointments. Salonnières shaped political agendas by their guest lists — the charge of Père Duchêne made against

"Père" Roland. "la femme" Condorcet, & the "right" Abbé. A radically egalitarian Declaration from Olympe de la Barre to Revolutionary calls for Women's equal rights by Olympe de Gouges & Etta Palm. Jouveau discriminatory Rousseau's ideas turned out to be surprisingly adaptable to different political needs. Anne-Josephine Théroigne stirred women called as domestic healers, their power should do not just Liberté & égalité but "amitié et fraternité." Dans cette would brigandate male noble, & the Club des Citoyennes Républicaines et Révolutionnaires would take care of their meta. Women formed themselves on horseback with weapons in their hands. Hundreds of women joined the army in désguise (Angélique Duchemin was later decorated by Napoleon III for the Legion of Honour for her military services). As revolutionary history unfolded, women failed in their struggle combining a Rousseauist discourse & Jacobin politics. The successors of Jacobins & Débertistes ran deep.

From 1816 until 1904 it was forbidden in France for adulterous parties in a divorce suit to marry after the divorce (a restriction which was later copied in England but relaxed far off the ground). Until 1965 French wives needed their husbands' permission to open bank account. Until 1982 all homosexual acts with a person under 21 were illegal. Robert Owen lost his nerve over his factory project in the 1820s & 1840s, & Charles Bradlaugh was stabbed in the back by free-thought colleagues for his advocacy of birth control. One of the most striking "Victorian" moral doctrines in 19th-cent. England — the doctrine of damage done by male masturbation, paradoxically through an impairment of erectile & ejaculatory functions, or "spermatorrhea" — is in effect a French invention (by Tissot &

(La Clemence)

544 Pierre Bourdieu is a vocal enemy of the shallow cliché-jousting ready pundits — twittologistes, as the Italians call them. Pluralism is guaranteed by the friendly but contentious partners who join the forum. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, L'Indice dei Libri del Mese, Le Monde & The Times Literary Supplement have decided, subject to final legal agreements, to publish together a European review of books under the title Liber. It will appear regularly as a supplement of the 4 papers.

544 An early translator of Georges Simenon into English was dropped by his publisher when the novelist's wife had a count made & found that Simenon in French English came to many words fewer than Simenon in French. How could this be, when translations usually stretch rather than shorten their originals? The translator confessed that he had cut passages from the originals which he thought were padding. Simenon, of all writers, is no waster of words. In setting out to be a censor of the text along the way, the translator had misbehaved; the professional code says that you translate literally, be fair with the text, & keep your urge to summarize to yourself. But translation has not always had to be so self-effacing. Once a translator could address himself as an improver, at liberty to take possession of a foreign text & do what he thought best to suit it to the literary proprieties & his own time & place. In the late 17th & 18th centuries in England, translation took the language, knew its Age of Improvement, when the poetry of Greece & Rome was done & redone into English with conspicuous infidelity. Many of these improvers came from the upper classes. Philemon Holland conceived of the translation of Latin & Greek as a well-born Englishman's chance to take a late revenge for the Roman Conquest of

Britain. And the 100-word among the aristocratic theorists was "servile": the ideal translator must exhibit his independence by a brave display of textual licence. Titled translators complimented titled translators for their wit, to do with a classical literalism. To Sir Richard Fanshawe's translated "Pastor Fido" Sir John Denham wrote: "That servile path thou nobly dost decline / Of tracing word by word, & line by line." The Earl of Roscommon's interest in Jephsome on his brother Earl of Mulgrave's translation of Ovid: "How will sweet Ovid's ghost be pleased to hear / His fame augmented by an English peer?! ... / How he [Mulgrave] embellishes his Ovid's Helen's loves, / But does his softness & his care improves." A brave poet & translator wish to improve (on) the original rather than his work from a translation into an "imitation". & put him more convincingly on a par with his source as a fellow Creator. The original can be improved in a different way by being made clearer in the translation than the translator found it in the original. The translator of the Bible could be exegete & hold himself to account his test in the act of translating it. The most thoughtful of the earlier theorists, Lord Woodhouselee laid down as the First Principle of Translation that "the Translation should give a complete transcript of the ideas of the original work." Yet what is to say how many ideas there might be in any given work? The word "complete" seems to encourage translators, for fear of missing some, to include all the reasonable ideas they have been inspired to have & thus introduce an element of commentary into their versions

561 Only one kind of omission is indefensible; when a translator leaves things out because he is unable to translate them. Leaving things out because you don't like

claim is defensible only on grounds of taste. The 18th cent., famously, would not take Homer neat. Pope, though declaring in the preface to his *Iliad* that "it is the first grand duty of an interpreter to give his author entire & unmaimed...", did not follow that precept rigorously. Where Homer's natural luxuriance was too much, it "might be lopped into form." e.g. the recurrent epithets of the original were varied or omitted on occasion, created by Pope to relieve the "tedium". The strange claim is even made once in a while that the translation is superior to the original. Yet the comparisons on which such judgments apparently depend are made in fact not directly between the original & the translation, but indirectly between the original & alternative translations of it. The original cannot be improved on.

545 Christopher Hitchens admirable & rightly outraged as a friend in full flight, omitting great blasts of blacking in frantic efforts to cover ignominious retreat. This Pintage Hitchens will not comes to the distortion of evidence.

In Rumania as in France, it was the intellectuals & the bourgeoisie who put specific demands into calls for a complete overhaul of the political & economic order, who intended that nothing can change unless everything changed, which used the effect of transforming spontaneous rebellion into conscious revolution.

There are at present only two States which 100% overwhelmingly Muslim populations the governments of which have unequivocally asserted the secular character of the regime: the Turkish Republic & the Republic of Indonesia. To adopt a description which Indonesian political leaders have formulated, these two States are Muslim but not Islamic.

LS, May 26–June 1

567 "What's the use of all this education?" is not a novel question. One used to hear it asked, however, only by "self-made men". Now it comes, from Great Britain & Australia, from the top governments, by Oxford graduates. In their eyes, schools, universities are enterprises designed to turn out a particular kind of product. They should be run, in other words, on the same order as a driving school. We judge such a school in terms of its capacity to teach one desirable skill at a level adequate to gain one a license, at the lowest possible cost. Being a "good citizen" consists in being law-abiding, amenable, no kind of trouble-maker, never reading inopportune questions, accepting such "traditional values" as are not inconsistent with the maximizing of wealth. One had normally associated this attitude to schools, universities, scholarship, science, with totalitarian States. But it nowadays prevails in Australia & Great Britain. De-regulation of economic life has gone along with greater State control over teaching & research. To make the situation still more eerie, one of the two countries is run by a government which calls itself "Conservative", the other by a government which calls itself "Labour". In these days Michael Oakeshott's lectures on education would be only of interest for the nostalgia for him, a driving school, a riding school, a business school, far from being paradigm cases, do not count as to a place for education. They are places for training. No government can be expected to allocate research grants to work whose sole interest is intellectual or not much is motivated by "idle curiosity". 568 True enough, such arts or sciences suffer no parasites except occasionally. One can point out that the first investigators of electricity were rebuked for merely playing games when they should have been directing their energies to some worthy labour.

a new Rainbow Coalition of gays, feminists, & blacks.

or "has nothing could have looked more useless, in the eyes of contemporary legislators, than the work in Logic which is now so essential to computers. Oakeshott has much to say about the University as a place for gaining self-understanding. One can imagine the answer: "Why should we dawdle navel-gazing?" As undergraduate, according to him, finds in university a respite, not from hard work, but from "a life now crowded with happenings"; from that "ceaseless flow of seductive trivialities". One cannot learn to read, he for example tells us, by reading contemporary literature. Any tower, ivory or not, is a point of vantage. To be sure, any tower is erected at a particular place & time: to look at things sub specie aeternitatis lies beyond our powers. Worse, however, shorter & longer views. A university, for most people, is the only place in which they will be free enough & from the daily happenings to take long views. What more specifically, does Oakeshott take to be going during the period of respite? Again a decision-procedure answer: "Hearing voices". The undergraduate is to get some real feel of the major modes of talking which make up the intellectual, moral & emotional life. The forms of "conversation" in which human beings gather. Fanaticism consists in listening only to one voice. The scientist, the economist, the historian, the mathematician, the student of literature, are likely to leave the university or continue to work in it, with an ignorant disdain of other voices.

Orwell never stopped being a socialist, but he did lose faith in socialism's future. "A Socialist today," he wrote in 1947, "is in the position of a doctor dealing with an all but hopeless case. As a doctor it is his duty to keep the patient alive. As a Socialist, it is his duty to face the facts, & therefore to admit that the patient will probably die."

§75
The London Season came back after the war in a modified but perfectly recognizable form. Débutantes were presented at Court until 1958; perhaps it was Wagner rather than Hitler who gave the death-blow to the old festivities. In the 1960s pop stars became more glamorous than débutantes & the spread of university education changed the pattern of growing up for a significant proportion of young people of all classes. Fashionable society magazines of the period are curious to read now; the style is sycophantic, not to say grovelling. The same magazines these days, anxious to show their heads are in their right place, choose photographs which show their young subjects looking as unattractive & idiotic as possible & caption them with perfectly offensive puns. It is a practice which is the less honest of the two approaches.

The most well-worn of all deathbed remarks was Disraeli's, when it was suggested that Queen Victoria might visit him: "No, it is better not. She would not only ask me to take a message to Albert."

Salvatore Giuliano is the most famous, the most glamorous, & in some respects the most tragic, of all Italian bandits. He even campaigned to have Sicily annexed to the United States.

The Booker Prize for special pleading must doubtless be awarded to Derrida's defence of Paul de Man. Frederic Jameson: "We may forget about history, but history, for better or worse, will not forget about us."

§76
Proust's radically divided literary taste: on the one hand his fondness for the Romantic-Wagnerian side of his Michel-Ange of Gaucerty-Rides

Hayford, Marjorie Bowen, Maurice Hewlett, Masefield & R. L. Stevenson,
& on the other hand his admirations for The Conscious Artists, for Henry James
& Ford Madox Ford. The Other ancestor, most central & most troublesome
to Green, because he was both artist & adventurer — "The Blasted Pole"
Conrad. His married life with Vivien was clearly a mismatch from the beginning
— an ardent, inexperienced young man in pursuit of a young woman who was
afraid of sex, & who rose, to complicate things further, a devout Roman
Catholic. In Green's letter, compromises were reached — a real celibate
marriage, filial affection, conversion to the Church — & eventually they, weary,
& set off on honeymoon (with separate bedrooms).

She deliberately establishes any connection between his life & his poetry & his life as
ancestor. For a bridge, she offers ducks & ducks; or for ducks & ducks,
a few stones on the bed of a pond.

The first book gets you position tenure, the second book gets you promotion.
University publishers have become — finite & unwillingly — referees who
can either break an academic career.

TLS, June 28, 1989

599

McTaggart's philosophy was thus rationalist in style, but its inspiration
was mystical. A recurrent mystical experience gave him an unshakeable
conviction. He was like a schoolboy with a mathematical exercise who had found
glanced at the answer at the end of the book: if he worked the sum correctly accord-
ing to the rules, he must surely reach the same answer. He read his Hegel as some
sectarians read their Bible, & tried to confound other expositors by citing proof
texts against them. The idiosyncratic opinion of Hegelian scholars is that McTaggart

is no more a safe guide to Hegel's meaning than a Jehovah's Witness to the sense of Scripture. ... The title of C. D. Broad's massive three-volume commentary indicates that J. S. Mill's *An Examination of Sir W. Hamilton's Philosophy* & just like Mill's, Sir William's task is that of presenting common sometimes Broad is needlessly abusive; his *dicta* given us such nice comments of epitaphs as "Bosh, confusion" & "nonsense of Marx's next." McTaggart is not the great philosopher about whose work somebody has written a big book to show in detail how worthless it is. to my knowledge, this has been done for Plato, Aristotle, Spinoza, Frege & Wittgenstein. Having settled in your mind that a given philosophy is just rubbish — leave it alone! As Kotarbinski says: "Why fight with the absurd? If you have to go to say, 'Not everything is false', say it in a different way."

Daniel A. Treffert, *Extraordinary People: An exploration of the Savant syndrome*: The distinguished mathematician, A. C. Aitken, could repeat & memorize a sequence of 45 digits presented one time 3 times in 3 periods. But his ability is paralleled if not exceeded by that of a retarded. An *idiot savant* is someone who is retarded, but has developed one talent that is far out of keeping with his general intelligence. One skill is calendar calculation, e.g. the ability to give the day of the week for any date over a vast range of years. Some can memorize large chunks of text with little or no understanding of its meaning. It is significant that six in every seven *idiots savants* are male.

610 The right to free expression has, until our own time, rarely been held to be absolute. At most it was relative, not absolute. It had to be weighed

against other needs & priorities. 18th-century advocates of free publication, who saw it as a check on the tyranny of the State, nonetheless shared the already of belief required a government strong enough to protect it & confident enough to tolerate it. Milton in Areopagitica severely delimits the toleration he grants: his exclusion of "popery" & "open superstition", his contempt for that which is impious or evil absolutely & cannot pass in manners, not laws can possibly permit"; his confinement of liberty to "those neighbouring differences" which divided the Puritan cause during the Civil War. The history of toleration has been often written as if it were a literary high-jump contest, whose competitors must achieve a succession levels of liberty to catholics, the papists, & atheists. We consider what values can hold a multicultural society together, & confront the question how far tolerate intolerance.

TLS, June 9-15, 1989

627 In Jan. 1911, a newspaper reported that Jack London had attended a birthday party for "Fluffy Ruffles", the pet dog of a wealthy socialite. Correspondents wrote to the author of The Call of the Wild to enquire about this meeting with a one-flesh response: the only time he sat down to table with a dog, London reported, was in the Seattle Lecture & the dog ate the meal. Signing himself "Wolf" to close friends, he built a home called Wolf House. Convinced, Anna-like, that he will "stand upon my two hind legs", he often exhorts others to do the same, as if the usual posture should be on all fours.

We find this same yearning for a simple, primal existence in the kind of
Modern tourism that sends planeloads of Japanese to Okinawa & Europeans
& backpackers to China. A yearning for simplicity, for a world that is
"lost" but which can be "rediscovered", is apparent in the way in which West-
erners exoticize the Orient..

640 Dora Carrington loathed everything about the homosexual Strachey, when she
first met him, especially his beard, which she planned to cut off as he slept.
Strachey opened his eyes before she made the first snip! "She seemed to
become hypnotized, & fell, there & forthe rest of her life, violently
in love with him." She had a long-drawn-out love affair with Mark Gertler,
her fellow-student at the Slade — a relationship that was made triangular
by the simultaneous attentions of C.R.W. Nevinson. Carrington never
commit herself to a relationship, nor could she let anyone go. The same
tortured pattern was followed with Gerald Brenan, with whom she became
involved only months after his wedding to the cheerfully Masculine Ralph
Partridge — whom she only married because Strachey loved him. These inter-
locking triangles do not always seem worth untangling. Strachey: "Ladies
in love, with luggage & cuppas in love with womanizers, & the price of coal going
up too. How will it all end?" Of Mansfield: "Her writing was the least interes-
ting part of her... It was great that she wrote so badly." Her husband Partridge, who
called be a bully, & generally shameless double standard expected her to facil-
itate his alliance with the beautiful Frances Marshall. Quite the strictly
Monitored Carrington's relationship with Brenan. Here was a weekend at Ham
Spray with 3 couples: Ralph Partridge & Frances Marshall, Strachey & Roger Senhouse,

Carrington de playboy sailor called Bernard Rondeau 10 years younger than Dorothy
with whom she had had a deep affair. This affair was complicated by the
fact that she was married to Pacifique, called Francis, & lived Frances.

TLS. 16-22. 1989

655

The origins of the theory of the primacy of communication in the structuring of human cultures must be sought in the work of the Toronto economist Harold Innis, The Bias of Communication (1951), but it was only in 1962-3 that 3 simultaneous publications presented a coherent picture of the "Toronto School": Eric A. Havelock's Preface to Plato, Marshall McLuhan's The Gutenberg Galaxy, & an extended article by Jack Goody & Ian Watt called "The Consequences of Literacy." The most fundamental factor in the cultural progress was change in the modes of communication. The crucial question is not what is transmitted but how it is transmitted — in the famous slogan of McLuhan, the Medium is the Message. New developments was seen in dialectic terms, as the creation of one dominant form of communication. The age of telecommunications, after having restored the primacy of the spoken word through the radio, is then leading us through television towards a new world of visual communications. In the 1960s IBM was still International Business Machines, computers were still called calculators. The communication theorists were prophets, preparing the way of the computer. The next technology has in fact been directed away from the image, & back towards the (processed) word. With the Message Hoy has made the Medium.

The writing industry is prone to over-production, rapid turn-over & speedy obsolescence. There is no common measure between the shelf-life of a book & the lifespan of its author. He ignored the mainstream, but neither did he settle for the niche of the anti-novel or bury himself in the chic dead-end of some self-proclaimed avant-garde.

638 The Western popular image of Islam & the Muslims can scarcely have been more negative since the Middle Ages than it is today. A combination of Arab obstruction, the antics of Colonel Qaddafi, the erratic behaviour of the Tehran regime, & perhaps above all, for the moment, the damaging notoriety of the Rushdie affair has incited the Muslims in general into the direst paranoid hysteria. Who is better qualified than Mr Shamir & the Stern Gang to recognize a terrorist when he sees one? Not even "Islamic Fundamentalists" prefer Camelot to Cadillacs, culinary to cuisine. For many years before the creation of Rastkhiz Iran had a nominal two-party system. Nobody was taken in: the Iranians habitually referred to the two organizations as the "Yes Party" & the "Yes Sir Party". Presumably the Shah intended to beat the West at its own game & thus felt he had to play the game by the West's rules.

Although Milena Jesenská is mostly remembered for her (largely epistolary) romance with Kafka, she was much her own woman, a household name as a journalist in Prague in the 1930s, & a courageous writer against the crimes of totalitarianism; her outspokenness led to her imprisonment & miserable death in Ravensbrück in 1944.

Kingsley Amis's famous call for an embargo on poems about painting (*Foreign Letters*, *Literary Review*, May 1988, p. 65; March T.L.S. June 23-29, 1989 1989 on Alex Martin's *The*

Harold Macmillan remained a prisoner of his past to the end, despite a series of ingratiating gestures towards the future. Ruthless calculation wore the mask of nonchalance. To Selwyn Lloyd, already a monkey to his organ-grinder, Macmillan thought he gave a Chancellor Wrenches Candy bully a cajole. Lloyd was to discover that, under this regime, loyalty bears one-way traffic.

Literary Review, July 1989

Oct. 1989, p. 29 on Mark Swallow, Teaching Life Fang

The problem facing genuine poets in the English language is identified by Eliot as a form of post-Shakespeare syndrome. Where everything worth saying has already been said, we might as well spend our time blowing bubbles & hope to convince a few fools that there is merit in them, a few cracks that there might be money to be made.

There is no shame in receiving an invitation this year, next year, sometime, ever, which will be able to relish the crumbs dropped from the table of those upon whom fortune has seen fit to smile.

If "TEFL" is anti-career* Nearly always a haphazardly unsatisfactory, temporary expedient for those cherishing high, literary or academic ambitions the pay isn't up to much, the permanent careers with the British Council doesn't materialise, & even the hope of playing a modest part in promoting international relations is worn down by the banality of conversation classes. Poor, the TEFL teacher in David Lodge's *The British Museum Is Falling Down*, has been cheerfully xenophobic, insisting on the toast "Bloody Wogs." When drinking with friends of Stephen Lewis in Ian McEwan's *The Child in Time*, David Kennedy in Clive Collins's *The Foreign*

as ~~Poirot~~ Mitchell, tidy, dedicated to conspicuous consumption
as Imelda Marcos. But beside anyone who gets caught in the
~~Crossfire of the two factions~~

Husband.

Susan Oleksiw. A Reader's Guide to the Classic British Mystery is a labour of love by 275 mystery buffs in Brit. 1440 titles by 121 authors are synopsized & collerbated.

Julia Cartwright in her ~~Di~~ diaries wrote of the conversation of women dominated by "the three dreadful D's of dress, domestics & disease". Despite these attempts to escape — or, at any rate, buy — respectability (the endowment of two Professional chairs, one at London & one at Oxford, & etc), Sir Basil Zaharoff is associated with the arms trade ~~made~~ him something of a pariah ("Pedlar of death", "A million died that he might live").

Literary Review, Aug 1989

It is a feature of our bureaucratic society that these days we designate as many beauty spots as they are supposed to protect. Oxford University Press have decided to produce a volume of omissions from the DNB. To be only in DNB may prove the only route to immortality available to contemporary Englishmen & women. Sylvia Plath, at the time of her death in 1963, did not even rate an obituary in The Times. Now, of course, she has become a cult figure. Will Enid Bagnold make it here, time round?

Anita Brookner's novels consistently teach that there is a fine line between pity & contempt. In everyday life, we are all familiar with the way pity shades into contempt: one minute you are commiserating wholeheartedly with someone else's troubles, & the next your patience has snapped.

la provides instant objective assessment for his friends.

he pities them, but he doesn't care about them.
Wherever he travelled, he was like a sniffer-dog at hunting out the nob & the ant-Wold He & his wife had separate bank accounts & restaurant bills had to be carefully split down to the last dime.
3) A very dear friend of mine when rebuked for being a name dropper replied urbanely "If you mean it's a funny thing you should say it; the Queen Mother recruited me that only the other day." He knew just about everyone who was anyone in Washington. But one does wish he would not make such a meal of it, parading the names with self-satisfaction.
Going somehow acquired person & seemed have escaped the hangman so the Americans hanged his corpse
The Thirties gang demonstrate one of the great dangers of Snobs-mongering, the tendency to suppose that because Auden & Spender belonged to the same club they are poets of equal merit.

Encounter, July/August 1989

3 East & West are no longer on a collision course. The Westerners, of course, are old hands at the cliff-hanging game. They are dangling men, & watch Gorbachov's approach with suspended animation. He does not come alone: the Chinese & the East Europeans are within. They're not like a sudden wave of converts to make you doubt your own cause. They are doing exactly what we asked of them: "Collective economies don't work", we told them, "try market mechanisms." They failed to heed their own prophets. The trouble with Socialism, Nicholas Bethge-

cited in the 1920s, in his De l'inégalité, is that it deifies the proletariat but has no respect for work. 4 The trouble with their economy, as Gorbachov told his countrymen, is that "you pretend to work & we pretend to pay you." Communism is the negation of human personality, & life for the Western liberal will be especially hard. Graham Greene can no longer expect to arouse furious indignation when he says he would rather live in Moscow than in America now that the Russians are trying to make Atlantic, USSR, more like Atlanta, Georgia, & G. B. Shaw would no longer be able to describe to a Moscow audience — as he did in the hungry 1930s — how he threw the coins he'd meant to eat at the dam window on receipt of an assurance that there was no famine in the land. Theodor Reiser would be mocked. He could still claim today, with total consistency, what he said in the 1920s (Dreiser Looks at Russia, 1928): "Not a city, not a village or hamlet in all Russia ... is not feeling the thrill of the new intellectual & social life emanating from the new leaders in Moscow." Just as we have tended to use Communist societies to improve our own image, so these visitors were using them as mirrors in which to see ugly reflections of their own societies. What matters is that the approximations of Utopia they saw in these countries are most definitely off the mark. The million-&-a-half converts are approaching destination we expected, & it is no good welcoming them to a cliff edge. Are they on a flying visit, thinking that the West merits le détour? Or have they come to stay? The

looming democratization of totalitarian regimes is more economic & technological than moral in its motivation. The system doesn't work; its unproductiveness calls for the change in the methods of communication. In order to survive, all dictatorships must stop the people's mouths with bread & censorship. Socialist societies are not organized to produce the food, & are no more technically equipped than they are to suppress the flow of communications. Endless preparations for a war that can never be fought have become too expensive. Kant: "The cost of peace finally becomes more oppressive than a short war." A modern war should certainly be short. Here's all that could be said for it. What we are witnessing is the triumph of the managerial ethic. Perestroika has a slight flavour of moving the furniture about. The ethical void is most tangible in China. Spengler argued that Western civilisation had become a mere collection of methods & instruments — that it had no soul. Many works of Russian underground artists show that dissidence is not synonymous with genius. That the East should be beginning its long & uncertain journey towards democracy at a time when the West is in touch with its roots in an explosive irony. In his Philosophy of Right, Hegel quotes a Prussian who, asked about the civil & educational institutions in Rome in 1803, replied: "Ils les tolèrent comme les bordels." Already, our educationalists are responding over-zealously to calls for greater pragmatism. Many teachers are far happier instructing their pupils how to order an ice-cream in French than pretending to introduce them to French literature. Two vacuums plenum.

14

There is no instance in India of such an incident as that of Jean Joseph Rabearivelo, the Malagasy poet, who killed himself in 1937 because he could not reconcile his nationalism with the French language & culture in which he was obliged to work. Indians in the days of British rule (perhaps because for centuries bilingualism had been the accepted norm among the educated — with the knowledge of Sanskrit or Persian expected, along with that of one's mother tongue) saw no contradiction between committing to their own country & culture, & total ease in a foreign language. Even Gandhi laid down as early as 1921 that one of the essentials of India's freedom was to get rid of "the infatuation for English." But he himself wrote English clearly & forcefully. Nehru took pains to attain sufficient proficiency in Hindi to be able to communicate with large numbers of his people, but it was primarily in English that his thoughts were formulated & expressed. Like Latin in medieval Europe & Sanskrit & Persian in pre-British India, English had been learnt by a small number in various parts of the country; a new linguistic caste evolved. After 1947, Nehru & his colleagues rid themselves of any prejudices born of the feeling that English was the language that had helped the British hold the empire together. The first generation of independent India's leadership had the same complexes. When, in 1954, an old Irish revolutionary spoke a few words to Nehru in Gaelic[15] & then switched to English with the remark, "Forgive me for using the language of the enemy", Nehru's reaction was one of mild & amused surprise. But Nehru believed that English could never

become a living language widely spoken in India. Among the regional languages, the one with the widest range was Hindi — covering a large part of Northern India. Basic Hindi, with a vocabulary of about 5,000 words, & borrowing from Urdu, English & other languages, should be developed & picked up easily by most Indians. Jo Nehru was in favour of gradually abandoning the use of English as an official language & even desired it to fade out as the link-language. Dr Hart Fink in his tours as Prime Minister to other parts of the World from Britain & the English-speaking countries, to note the surprise & contempt with which the use of English by Indians conversing with each other was received. However, he conceded that it would be foolish to drop English altogether. He supported the provision in the Constitution that Hindi would be the official language of the Union, but that English could enjoy that status for the next 15 yrs — that is, until 1965. The agitation (in Southern India against Hindi) posed a threat to Indian unity. It was better to adhere to English as an official language for the whole country, the more so since English was establishing itself as the leading world language. In 1968 legislation was stipulated the use of English in addition to Hindi for certain specified official purposes. No time-limit was placed on the employment of English as Hindi. There are at least 20 regional variations of English in India. A quick & flourishing way to learn official language of India was incorrect English. Indians have associated English with modernization & command of English leads to better schools & colleges, greater opportunities, & a higher economic & social status.

Endemic no-hopers. Those parents are rich enough to buy them B.A. degrees. Students (except from TV-induced dyslexia) are taught to be trained towards books.

Malcolm Muggeridge must have this in mind when he spoke of unemployed graduates chasing the British out of India, buying after them cards & copies of the Good Book of English Usage. So do all English has influenced them during the last 100 years, they now influence English. They give an indigenous flavour & borrow a new idiom. Gandhi, for example, spoke of a "Himalayan blunder" Indians roll & squeeze the puttee language to suit their needs, & add some ingredients of their own. Some Indian English has a period flavour. The deceased are always condoled & the Prime Minister is always felicitated on her birthday. Criminals are always called miscreants & detectives sleuths. Women take, not lovers, but paramours. Pre-teasers are young men who annoy girls. Criminals do not flee; they abscond. In 1901, when Queen Victoria died, an anonymous loyalist published a couplet in an English newspaper in Calcutta: "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes, / Into the grave the Great Queen dashes." Teachers of English in India are encouraged to attach greater importance to fluency than to proficiency in grammar.

Tom Paine said in 1776: "Europe, not England, is the parent country of America", i.e. a nation of immigrants. James Bryce: "There is a disposition in the United States to use the immigrants, & especially the Irish, much as the cat is used in the kitchen to account for broken plates & food which disappears. But New York was not an Eden before the Irish came & would not become Eden-ic in the next

"the committee would have to drink & drink for a long time on that proposition before reaching a conclusion"

to move "To San Francisco." Bjerke'd an audience in London: "there has never been anywhere an environment of more persuasive & compulsive powers than that into which the immigrant is plunged when he lands in America. He seems to melt in it as a lump of sugar melts in a cup of tea." [37] Edward Freeman of Oxford: "The best remedy for Whatever is amiss in America would be if every Dissolute should kill a negro & then be hanged for it."

Pound wrote Canto 116 in his 75th year: "To confess error without bitterness/..." In 1967, Allen Ginsberg, the American Jewish poet, visited him in Venice, bringing Marijuana & Beatle records. He coaxed the monosyllabic & depressed octogenarian into a confession; whereupon Pound, who'd spent a lifetime inciting others to hatred of the Jews, uttered one often-quoted line regarding anti-Semitism — "But the worst mistake I made was that stupid, subservient prejudice..." (Humphrey Carpenter, *A Serious Character: The Life of Ezra Pound*, 1988, p. 879)

He pretends to be what he also partly is: an ordinary person.

[65] Leszek Kolakowski: "The Power of Information": "The manipulation of information — withholding, distorting & spreading it — is centrally important in controlling human affairs. This knowing has been essential in many professions & trades, including those of spies, blackmailers, politicians, merchants, etc. All governments, to a larger or smaller extent, have

~~Lied~~
~~Lied~~ — directly or by omission — to their subjects. However it is our century which has witnessed for the first time a new civilization, in which the entire power system, i.e. the control of the population by its rulers, is based on the control of information. He who controls everything people are allowed to know is unquestionably the master. It is the character of the mechanisms whereby information is handed over & distributed in society which fundamentally defines the character of that society. We may say that the Communist totalitarian regime was the first truly modern political system, in so far as it was constructed on a clear realization that fact. Communism has programmed itself as a total power that was supposed to encompass all areas of life: production, exchange, science, arts, customs, daily life, beliefs & feelings. Ultimately, it was intended to attain the unattainable goal: total destruction of civil society, & total replacement by artificial state-imposed mechanisms. Two axioms: "the more control & information, the more power"; "the more power, the more stability." Communists did not invent censorship. Censorship is only an auxiliary tool in the totalitarian system. When all media are State-owned (i.e. Party-owned) & the rulers have undisputed power to appoint editors, & to punish them (as well as writers) for any deviation from the established ideological norms, censorship plays a minimal role. When the State apparatus is weak & unable to control the population, when the Party is torn between factions, i.e. when the totalitarian order is breaking down, the institution of censorship does matter; without it, the monopoly of information would collapse. [66] Control

* LLS, April 1-7, 1988, p. 354. "In 1974 the Soviet publishing house Politizdat put out a handbook claiming that the Soviet Union had become "the motherland of a new & higher type of homo sapiens: homo sovieticus."

of information is based not on censorship but on the monopolistic ownership of all material means of communication; & on the power of the ruling bodies to select & appoint trusted personnel to all posts throughout the communications network. People are supposed to be afraid not merely to express heterodox ideas, but even to express the "correct" ones: voting in pseudo-elections, participating in marches to display their enthusiasm for the régime, etc. It is quite possible that this "positively-oriented" coercion can even produce a kind of half-hearted acceptance of the Party-imposed ideological rules. As a result of fear, people not only forbear from opposing their oppressors, but actively applaud & glorify them. The result is a kind of self-denial, a psychological demi-suicide, a split personality which is a typical product of mental Sovietization. *Perekovka perekovka* — the reforging of the human soul in order to produce "the New Man of Socialism": a mentally empty, passive, ignorant mannequin, without will, unable to resist, to think critically, & unwilling even to make the rules work for them to believe at any moment *Homo Sovieticus*.* Nobody will deny that impressive successes have been scored in the movement toward this ideal. Only a very small portion of the knowledge which was concealed from people had anything to do with State security. For instance, under Stalin, for many years after the Map of Soviet cities. The point was to make it difficult or even impossible for individuals unfamiliar with Moscow to move around with [*sic* without] special assistance. You could in a room, specially provided for the purpose, where a given order was to wait to get the [illegible] The same applied to Moscow's

resident telephone directories. Newspaper readers were often not even supposed to know the real character of an event; the point was to obey orders. Systematic falsification did, less the same goal. The task of history was not to teach people about their past, but to glorify present policy. For instance, to stress the monstrosity-potentiality of Ivan the Terrible (who previously had been highly praised on Stalin's orders) amounted to supporting the Khrushchevian "thaw". The famous Khrushchev speech of February 1956 was a political act of great importance, to be sure, but it was merely a political act; the new information which it included was cut to the shape of current political requirements. Soviet Communist Russian tongue was supposed to be strict, and not specifically Russian. Natural sciences are at the service of industrial & military development, human sciences at the service of political propaganda & indoctrination. Even the most laudable achievements of the Communists — the eradication of illiteracy — was subordinated to the same goal of reducing "human material" to a will-less organ of the State. If modernisation serves this goal, it is promoted; if backwardness serves the same goal better, backwardness is maintained.[68] Ignorance is, after all a human characteristic par excellence; not even the most efficient totalitarianism could ever entirely stifle this blessed vice. Let there be information does not exist, it is replaced by public rumour & gossip which circulate with astonishing speed. The Second World War initially brought about breaches in Stalin's information screen. Later, when the Soviet Union had to extend

all sorts of economic & scientific contacts with the West, the holes in this screen naturally get bigger. The thousands of Soviet citizens who travel to the West on official business belong to the privileged class & have their own vested interest in indefinite continuation of the regime. But they too contribute unwillingly to its corrosion. It happens time & again, & now more strikingly so than ever, that the yearning for total power requires measures which bring about unintended counter-productive effects. The principle of "shoot the messenger" is quite justified in a mechanism where the messenger, more often than not, is indeed the culprit. Self-disinformation is built into the power system, corroding it from within. To set prices arbitrarily means that nobody knows the real price cost of anything — which inevitably results in a shortage of everything. The irrationality of Soviet economic policy is naturally corrected by the huge black economy, as well as by mass corruption & bribery. Corruption & bribery cannot be eradicated in this system as a social or economic pathology, but they are an indispensable condition of its very survival. To lead economic life by police regulations is obviously hopeless. 69 For an oppressive regime, poverty may have advantages. Firstly, people who spend their lives in queues in order to acquire necessities have little time or energy to think about political freedom & counter-revolution. Secondly, in backward countries one can buy human loyalty very cheaply — people are ready to be blindly obedient in return for minimal privileges. The rulers have become aware of this; however, they want to change in order not to change, to get rid of undesirable effects without removing their causes. The global

the campaign of lies & disinformation which both MI5 & MI6 have waged against any politician of the left or centre.

"Information Revolution" ~~is~~ Crosses the stability of the Soviet system
The celebrated Glasnost means merely an increase in the amount of information that Soviet people are allowed to get from official sources & permission — within limits — to voice conflicting views. Let us remember how the Soviet information system reacted to disasters & such magnitude as the Chernobyl nuclear accident or the catastrophic fire in the Leningrad Library & the Academy of Science. The systematic destruction of archives from Stalin's time has been going on uninterrupted. If the Soviet leadership would not like to see their subjects active & well-motivated to work — but only on 2 conditions: that their motivations conform to the goals set by the State; & that the Party & the State apparatus retain full control of all social processes. Briefly, the leaders' dream is of a square circle.

The most popular brands of toothpaste is changing its name from "Darkie" to "Darlie". For more than 60 yrs, the "Darkie" trademark has been a grinning minstrel in blackface, wearing a top hat. The logo would be redesigned: a racially ambiguous face under the top hat.

London Review of Books, 17 Aug. 1989

5 History of statesmanship & Maturity is the willingness or readiness to repudiate former comrades & former cherished convictions. But one will always be asked, Look Arafat, whether one really means it. One will never be able to stop the question.

9 An intellectual may not be intelligent & may be a fool. Those intellectuals who have wished to change the world, & always did, who have managed

to do so; but some intellectuals have been known to have a specialty in changing their books. Bertrand Russell, Paul Johnson & Esprit in Intellectuals, was unable to make himself a cup of tea. In Britain the term can now mean someone who is opposed to Mrs Thatcher's politics, & has been exposed to redundancy by her success, who calls her common or suburban. Paul Johnson was once a socialist intellectual, but has long changed his political allegiance. I've never had the impression that much happened on the road to Damascus to bring about the change: his crossing of the floor, or emergence from the closet, was a complex business, presumably for him, intellectuals are conspicuously exhorbitantly self-interested males, they are "secular", & lastly, they have or imagined they have something with their penises. Cyril Connolly, we are told, created the permissive society. Conservative politicians have seized the occasion of A. J. Ayer's death to rubbish the country's achievement in philosophy. A version of the command not spoken was the Cretan Liar paradox: look how unreliable these intellectuals are, say this intellectual.

!? To the man in the street — especially an American street — Arnold Toynbee was in the day the most famous historian in the world. His picture appeared on 17 March 1947 on the cover of Time Magazine, currently selling 1,500,000 copies. Time's genius was to spot the arcane potential in the uncompleted work in 6 thick volumes which had been gathering dust since their pre-war publication by a University press. A Study of History

was finally completed in 10 substantive volumes in 1954. Structural explanation in history emphasise what was likely to happen according to an explicit or implicit scheme of causation based on observed regularities, analogies, patterns or cycles. Such an approach – & it was manifestly Toynbee's – involves generalisation, which in turn necessarily depends on abstraction of what can be generalised from what seems unique, anomalous, or just trivial or messy, in its own particular context. Critics of such bold speculation, it will be said, there can be no scientific progress if Newton's speculations would therefore end with the trajectory of a single apple. Contingent explanations, which seek to capture the rich play of causation in specific instances, are necessary to a different sort of historical question: not what we can learn from the past in general but how we can understand what actually happened in particular. Harry Toynbee became a lifelong mental patient. Arnold left his mother to cope with the crisis at home while he ploughed on with his studies. As early as 1911 he confided to a friend about his "Ambition, with a great deference A." Gilbert & Mary Murray were desirable parents-in-law. Children of ex-parents-in-law. Arnold joined the Labour Party. When Gilbert's son-in-law invited himself & his family to stay, Lady Carlisle demanded of him: "And after all what have you to do with Castle Howard. Is not not anathema to your comrades? Then why come here?" But Toynbee was not abashed; his response – "I am going to hazard being importunate & to ask again" – endorses the term "thick skinned". With a new article

Toynbee's position. It must be said in favour of Rosalind's view that Arnold's concern about money, his anxiety to lay his hands on as much of it as possible, became no less marked in his affluent later years. In the Twenties, when he was hard-up, there was one familiar remedy: lobby from the Hellenes in the Strait Seminar until a comfortable academic appointment could be found. Chatham House, the home of what became the Royal Institute of International Affairs, supplied the long-term solution. In effect, Toynbee assigned only half the year to the Survey, leaving himself free to devote the rest of his time to what Rosalind dubbed "the Nonsense Book" with the devoted assistance from the other woman in his life, Veronica Boulter of the Chatham House. Veronica did not even permit Toynbee to acknowledge her collaboration until 1929. Men like Gilbert Murray, Leonard Woolf & J.L. Hammond who ~~had~~ reviewed the first volumes enthusiastically, were not professional academic historians. But the time Toynbee published his final volume in the changed conditions of the post-war world, he was chastised by academics. Apart from their general fact-finding, historians pointed out that his rhetorical explanations increasingly collapsed into tautology or exhortation. His grand taxonomy of civilisations was ultimately distinguished as explaining next to nothing. God took over from the League of Nations: history, secular, was left religion was functional for explanation as a branch of knowledge & values was reduced to pious platitudes: civilisation was to be seen as having higher religious purposes. Rosalind, converted to Roman Catholicism, "threw the

* How wide of the mark to say this for a man on the spot! Fully revised from the bitter retrospective glimpse for a man supposed to be wide-awake!

away like an old glove." What gave the work its wide currency was the abridgement which, on his own initiative, David Somerset executed. Published in 1947, it sold 130,000 copies in the USA in its first year. It was in Japan rather than America that he was greeted as a sage in his final years. His frequent, highly profitable, American lecture tours became increasingly liable to lapse into discord, & his disapproval of the Vietnam War was simply the last straw. Besides he had never shown any compunction about accepting hospitality as due without returning a reciprocal obligation to impersonate himself with his hosts. A professor at Stanford: "He is a congenital windbag, & now a senile windbag. I cannot help that. But he could stay home." He persisted on regardless, determined to get his handsome pension of $17,000*: "Teaching English in the Far East": In fact, I have generally tried to put off my Far Eastern students from reading my books, which I thought would only disappoint them. 18 I was seeing the last of the great days of the effort of mind to digest the achievements of Europe. Man at once well-educated Chinese was about the best-educated man anywhere in the world. 19 One of the darker aspects of Communism — the dirigisme & independent thought & the hysteria of the confession meetings.... It was not a Terror — that seems the first thing to say. I don't know how many of our Chinese colleagues got sacked, let alone arrested. A man whose confession was refused, so that he was sent back to prepare another one, would go on teaching & be respected by the students who had had heard his first confession.*

2 *London Review of Books*, 31 August 1989

The book & lives of Margaret Mead & Ruth Benedict were intertwined. The two lovers for a time together they came to be prominent in American anthropology, the doyens of the Boas school cultures are like personalities writ large. Both were determined to escape the suffocating suburban milieu expected of women of their class. Mead's field material about New Guinea may well have been crude & lacy conclusions overdrawn. But so is the tidy idea of her post-human opponent Derek Freeman. Benedict's most famous book about the Japanese, "the most alien of enemies", *The Chrysanthemum & the Sword* (1946), though she never went to Japan. She used an extraordinary wide range of materials.

Gore Vidal, whom Christopher Ricks calls "a suave hit man", reads as disparaging Eliot's salute to Henry James: "a mind so fine that no idea could violate it." Karl Shapiro: "The Death of Literary Judgment": "Eliot is untouchable: he is Modern Life, and he can initiate into himself."

Aloysia Laaser, ed., *I Modi: An Erotic Album of the 16th Century* (1989) contains the Modern translations of Aretino's sonnets. *Cul* becomes "rear-end", a mealy-mouthed ~~bowdl~~ transatlantic euphemism, & *Coglioniza* becomes "dumbass", which takes us clear to New York headlines than to the courtiers of Renaissance Venice.

Susan Sontag's *Aids & its Metaphors*, 90 pages, is offered as a sequel to *Illness as Metaphor*, written in 1976 when she herself was a cancer patient. *Against Interpretation* is her declaration of faith in the indispensable duplicity of the critic. You do not pluck away the text

to reveal the subtext, as though the surface were more than packaging.
The Emperor Maximilian, about 500 pgs, declared applies a general puzzlement for Vice. She attacks the Academicians, the banal talk of pandemic & the construction of a permanently threatened & threatening parish group. She particularly inveighs against the righteous Moralism which defines Aids, like VD in earlier decades, both as a threat to the innocent & a judgment on the guilty. She makes this disease, like other now less dreaded than they were, "seem ordinary", to be recognized with realism but without panic.

13 We could say of New York, & Los Angeles, that we have seen the picture & it does not work.

Sándor Ferenczi & Freud hit it off immediately. By the summer of 1918, Freud invited Ferenczi & his wife & his family at Berchtesgaden. When Mathilde Freud married a Viennese musician, Freud confessed in a letter to Ferenczi that he would have preferred him as a son-in-law. He had a supple & imaginative mind; he could accompany & at times overtake — Freud on some of his most adventurous speculative excursions. These were storm signals almost from the beginning. Ironically Ferenczi, with his confidence & insatiable appetite for receiving & making confidences in turn, tested Freud's capacity for patience to breaking point. Freud reproached him "for behaving like a truculent & demanding child." Ferenczi loving his analysand, cultivated a warm atmosphere during the analytic hour. Given Freud's insistence on the analyst's necessary distance, it is not surprising that he considered Ferenczi's affection impermissible. He

Note Feenegan a long admonishing letter objecting to his use of post-Victorian technique in writing fictions & being hissed by them: patients "are to be not denied erotic gratifications." He must not be taken as just another stick with which to beat Freud

Jellow & All Souls College, Oxford

[1] Charlotte Brewer: "Thoughts on the Second Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary". James Murray's granddaughter in her Caught in the Web of Words paints an extraordinary picture of the difficulties & problems which make Murray's ~~not~~ achievement even more heroic, but also more flawed, than is usually presented. Her account is not necessary about the qualities of the readers & the editorial process of their material. Numerous problems arose from relying heavily on voluntary (& therefore) unskilled labour. Murray describes the readers' "most pernicious & deceptive practice" of only boiling for particular letters only & their tendency to pass over illustrations of the usage of common words. He lamented in a letter to W. W. Skeat: "I have always said that the letter [E] ought to be done again." The title under book Documentation in the OED (1980) by Jürgen Schäfer is very revelatory. He read a selection of the sources read by OED to discover that "at least 1/3 of the potential first citations in any corpus examined for the OED are normally overlooked." Of these 30% would shift OED dates by over 50 yrs, 7% by over one hundred years. One cause of such shifting inaccuracy is that some authors were much better known & loved by the OED readers than others. The works of Shakespeare & Milton were combed for OED predecessors with far greater thoroughness than those of Malory & Wyatt. Shakespeare is cited as the first user of 1904 words in OED, but 50% of these

& can be orientated from the works of Nash alone. This person claims extends beyond authors to periods. Schäfer: "The chronological distribution of OED resources is already uneven: for example, OED readers examined nearly 20 times more works from the Shakespearean period than from the decade around 1500. A similar explanation may account for the apparent paucity of new words from the 18th century. This may be due also to the loss of the 18th-cent. slips, which had been assigned to American readers, & never reached Murray's scriptorium." Schäfer believes that the "astonishing divergencies" in editorial reliability & in period coverage" are largely unperceived by the editor. Early readers had been asked to look for unusual words, & not even when Murray corrected this instruction, there would a natural tendency for the eye to slide over familiar words & pick up unfamiliar ones. It might be very difficult, for example, to detect when a familiar noun started to be used as a verb, with no corresponding morphological change to alert the eye. The verb *Minor* is used by Nash, but OED dates its first occurrence 227 years later, in Keats's "Lamia". One of the most indefatigable contributors to the *Supplement*, Raghavan Lacchi, commented in a letter to the TLS in 1972: "... I know that all the literature after, say, 1600 needs to be read again. The account that has been written in even the most famous works never ceases to astound.... Anyone reading the OED would get the impression that it was the grants of Cadet to the formed our language. Any reading in trivia shows this impression to be wrong.... It is clear that extended reading in trivia of past centuries could be as valuable as [illegible]

The OED is the result of contemporary trivia has been the new Supplement". But words often go to notable lengths to expose language in original, startling & imaginative ways. We should not Shakespeare to represent genius usage of the late 16th or early 17th century, any more than we should expect Keats to represent the early 19th Cent., or James Joyce, Dylan Thomas, Ted Hughes, Anthony Burgess, Martin Amis (OED2 authors) that of today. The opposite is true: we should expect the language of these writers to extend out in a contrasting way from current usage, although this will obviously vary from writer to writer & indeed from word to word. Boo Murray: "Murray constantly uses words without regard to their proper meaning. He has greatly added to the difficulties of the Dictionary." A research tool of unparalleled value, the OED has significant limitations which cannot be wished away or ignored. Reprinting OED1 in OED2, with its material virtually unchanged, merely reproduces these limitations. One of the virtues to OED1, Dean Trench pointed out in 1857, that trivial & (possibly) passing words (like many of those the Supplement omits from their source, e.g. Watergate or triad as in the U.S. strategic nuclear force) are nevertheless important as a record of a historical stage of our language. Auden was a voracious dictionary-reader, & he peppers his poems with archaic & eccentric words. I have looked up roughly one hundred & fifty unusual words from his work, to find that they are recorded with remarkable inconsistency. Floccinaucinihilipilification is not recorded, but sensible is—they occur 9 lines apart in "Thanksgiving for a Habitat". Lexicographical prescriptivism

was rejected by Dr Johnson 200 yrs ago, who said his aim was 'not [to] fix, but register the language ... ~~not~~ [to] teach men how to think, but relate how they have hitherto expressed their thoughts'. Such a policy is not without risk, for most dictionary-users look to the dictionary for an authoritative statement on what usage should be. The determinedly descriptivist Webster's Third International Dictionary, in 1961, provoked the fear that we were well on the way to Worldwide Communism, since Webster refused to "condemn some usages as less equal than others." The Supplement does not dare to take the line of descriptive about prescriptivism, but it uses a warning symbol to alert the user. the paragraph-mark (¶) is said to designate "erroneous or catachrestic".

Ben Jonson is remembered as a master of English comedy, but you would hardly think so from this portrait. The face is jowly, bearded, dour, heavily lined—in. Comedy, it seems to say, is no laughing matter. He once said that "he would not flatter, though he saw death." The funniest caricature of Jonson as Horace in Thomas Dekker's Satiromastix, Shakespeare was briefly mocked in the so-called "War of the Theatres". According to one contemporary, Shakespeare the gave him "learned Jonson" a "purge which made him bewray his credit". Historians have wondered what form the literary laxative took. Some suggest that Jonson is jayed as big mouthed Ajax in Troilus & Cressida; others say that he is a model Jaques, still others surmise that he might be Malvolio in Twelfth Night. Jonson's friend Wm Drummond's table talk a barrage of anecdotes, jokes, asides

Lee Kuan Yew has called himself an "Anglified Chinaman."
He is addicted to the modish French habit of talking in terms of "negativity"
& "existence"
& libels. By middle age Jonson swelled to a corpulent 19 stone. In his
poem "My Picture Left in Scotland" (1619) he mocks his unwieldy frame:
"Such much waist as she cannot embrace / My mountain belly &
my rocky face."

Literary Review Sept. 1986

Nor are so many worthier writers crying for attention.
4 The name of Margaret Drabble has become the accidental shorthand
for all that is wrong with the English novel. It must needs be that
offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh.
The only two known copies of the MS of his Memoirs which Byron had
entrusted to Tom Moore, were torn up & burned in the grate of John Murray's
office in Albemarle street. Hobhouse justified the deed: "No Rake's Memoirs
were fit only for a brothel & would damn Lord B to everlasting infamy
if published." According to Leslie Marchand, Hobhouse had never actually
read the MS. They have now been re-created with vertuosity by Robert
Nye, the Memoirs of Lord Byron. Nye has denied himself the extraordinary
freedom of his Falstaff. His book might be given a different title Stolen
Lover & sold as a romance of guilty love in high society.
In My Father & Myself J. R. Ackerley wrote: "I do not like to boast, but
I was Norrello took me twice into his bed." The Alsatian & Welsh Guidance
(Queenie) Evie in We Think the World of You) was the love of his life; unlike
the soldiers & sailors she was in no position to go off & get married, though
Ackerley took care that she was sexually satisfied, having a bitch, & enjoying
promiscuity there was to be found on Tumbledon Common

Denys Trefusis, the unfortunate Violet Okore, must qualify as one of the most long-suffering husbands of all time. Not surprisingly in the circumstances, she makes Hall believe that he should not attempt to make love to her — more surprisingly, he agrees. He is rather less outraged by Harold Nicolson. Violet did, however, insist on a withdrawal of conjugal rights on Vita's part — but, then again, Harold did have his other, or Consolation. Vita was willing to put up with Violet's antipathy to Harold ("not a real man but one of des femmes manquées") Violet said that Vita's marriage was "an infamous & degrading lie to the world." Violet's idea of a "real man" was Vita. In the letters she calls Vita by men's names — Dmitri, Julian, etc. In the end, Violet's formidable & worldly mother — Alice Keppel, the former mistress of Edward VII — insisted that her daughter stop making a fool of herself. L. P. Smith's relations with his "millers" — his own word for the research assistants & literary apprentices whose company & stimulus he craved (Cyril Connolly, Robert Gathorne-Hardy) — were precarious.

84 R. G. Pickles = "Salvation": I live in poverty / Saves me from spending. // I never borrow / Saves me from lending. // I like awake / Saves me from sleeping. // I laugh a lot / Saves me from weeping. // ... // I haven't a watch / Saves me from timing. // I write few verses / Saves me from rhyming. // I take no doses / Saves me from dying. // I'll commit suicide / Save[s me] me from dying."

London Review of Books, 14 Sept. 1989

Tom Pitt-Aitkens & Alice Thomas Ellis, Loss: the Good Authority: The Cause of Delinquency. Real-life delinquents do not have the glamour of fictional "villains"; they are not noble savages or wise fools.

The founder of psychoanalysis was never properly trained. Freud was not psychoanalysed in the conventional sense—that is, by someone else, & there was no one to tell him whether what he was doing with his patients was appropriate. When Freud, Jung, Ferenczi, Abraham, Klein & Anna Freud were lecturing about the "new science" they had no rigorous formal training. Not surprisingly, most of the dissensions in psychoanalysis after Freud's death arose around the vexed question of training. Psychoanalysis, which, at least in theory, makes hero & heroine-worship impossible, found new leaders, all of whom claimed to be protecting Freud's legacy. Freud managed to live virtually half his life—what he came to think of as the most significant half—without psychoanalysis. Anna, as far as we can know, was the first & probably the last chaste catalyst of sexuality ~~is~~ as Freud showed, is the most tragic thing in life; then Anna Freud came to life. Freud's complicity in keeping his daughter for himself. When Ernest Jones, for example, began to take a fervent shine to Anna, Freud sent him a letter "suggesting that the connection was inappropriate because Anna was too young"—she was 19—& a further letter to Anna: "I have no right to grant you the freedom of choice your two brothers enjoyed." And Anna was the sixth child of the Freuds. After her birth the Freuds, for the first time in their married life, did not spend their holidays together. And this period of Anna's

early years coincided with their use of a new form of contraception, the so-called abstinence. The year after Lou bore the novel in famous Aunt Minna, Martha's sister moved into the family home, & she never took to Anna. Sophie & Anna "developed their version of a common sisterly division of emotions": 'reality' & 'basis'." Dreams represent the impenetrable privacy of the self. No one can know what someone else's dream of means, though they can tell the dreamer a great many more or less interesting things about it. The interpreter can never capture the dream or the dreamer. So-called training analyses rarely give people psychoanalysis: indeed the toneless psychoanalysis came to take to believe in psychoanalysis. Anna never allowed herself to be disillusioned about her father. Friend to Lou Andreas-Salomé: "I have long felt sorry for her for being child at home with no old folks... but, on the other hand, if she really took it away, I should feel myself so deprived as I do not, & as I should if I had to give up smoking." No one, presumably, wants to be a cigar! She overcame her father's prejudice about America by forming warm-hearted & friendly links with American analysts. She wrote of the post-Oedipal child in Psycho-analysis for Teachers & Parents (1935): "The originality of the child, its genius, both a great deal of his energy & talents, are sacrificed to being 'good'... It is as if the parents said: 'You can certainly go away, but you must take me with you!'"

"The current celebration of 'incurable' Nietzschean suggests that the historian, clustering as chronicler around the ascendant Court, can also collaborate in the manufacture of fresh myths. There is a struggle between "history" & the

What seemed to him a perfectly & principle-locked to other like
a jump into the dark, writes to bend Kaysen.
He will form nothing the Marxist said, but there is no attempt at proselytism.

& chivalrous rather than with Leninist explosive. Some words in "The First Principles of Government": "... force is always on the side of the governed, the governors have not right to support them but opinion. It is therefore on opinion only that government is founded; & this maxim extends to the most despotic & most military governments as well as to the most free & most popular."

We have practiced every day the bland & high-sounding slogans that the law is uniform & applies in the same way to everybody in the nation community. Private law privilege is deemed incompatible with the rule of law has a single source in a sovereign state, & applies equally to all its citizens. And only the single source has the right to enforce compliance. The darker side of the rule of law is the state's monopoly of violence. It is, in part, an essential prerequisite. This means the rule of the law is the law of those who rule. The coercive rules of human society were unwritten, but no less powerful & essential for that & they usually (remarkably with the most codes drafted in Palermo under the eye (literally enough) of the most famous Corsican of all. Eric Hobsbawm identified bandits in the 50's & 60's as social rebels rather than criminals. The bandits enjoy community support against the law, as Hobsbawm contended, but the support is not only support of the community to which he belongs. The murderer's flight to the maquis is both from the authorities & from those against whom he has struck. Italy was the diverse that no single formula can encapsulate all the many & regionally-differentiated forms of banditry. From the state's point of view they all represented a challenge to its authority.

the Neapolitan camorra, the Sicilian Mafia
rather than mafia.

Therefore, my definition, to the rule of law.
Must E. M. Forster have only two cheers for democracy, but three for D H. Lawrence, for the occasion of Lawrence's death, so well-known.
To live & work is, to deteriorate physically. Deformation is formation.
In Jerusalem, stones earn & the work of flowers — at death
Remember, that is, those flowers on graves are taboo. Tho' you
have been at a graveside you place a pebble or a chip or a rock on the
gravestone.

Margaret Anne Doody, Frances Burney: the Life in the Works attempts to make a changeling substitution of a mad Gothic feminist for the decayed title Augustan Chatterbox. According to Prof. Doody, Frances has a different kind of writer. From Jane Austen, more like Dickens or even Hardy. She should be judged more on her plays & later novels than on Evelina & the Journals. Violence, anxiety, grotesque farce & brutal jibes pervade her works. Revolt against the pattern of female submission & dependency & self-depreciation developed by the Master Romancer, Henry-Fielding & Dr Johnson. Prof. Doody marks Dr Burney the villain of piece though his biographer Roger Lonsdale says Fanny Burney asks Villainess in her father's story. In Dr Charles Burney he accused her of conscious dishonesty & ruthless egoism in her Memoirs of her father. That the Wanderer has been totally unjustly neglected is one of Prof. Doody's main contentions. The dissident figure Elinor Joddrel is indeed a "mad Gothic feminist", whatever her creator says; she has been converted during a sojourn in Revolutionary France into a philosophe & a contender for the Rights of Women. But her creator's attitude to her is

Rosalind Coward: The Whole Truth: the Myth of Alternative Health

ambivalent ~~letter than~~ disappearing, & she is not the heroine of the novel. The heroine remains a perfect lady throughout her. experiences among the shop-assistants & farm-hands, & ends up restored to her "proper station" as an Earl's daughter. Fanny was devout Christian & a loyal Monarchist. Though she described the embarrassments of the royal etiquette with good-tempered derision. The whippersnapper of "contemporary relevance" is racing its ugly head in Britt. Dodd's endeavor to turn Fanny Burney into a 20th-cent. feminist & social reformer. (We can only wish Shakespeare's plays & the actor Richard Jones & Field/Macbeth Jones, could be enfolded into reading Chaucer & Milton if they can be shown to have been kind to Blacks & anti-imperialist.

London Review of Books, 12 Oct. 1989

Rethinking Britain's strategic role—matching the means & to the ends & defining the ends that serve both the means. So as to save money while she could no longer save face. Wilson wanted to justify continuing the Polaris programme on the grounds that it was "past the point of no return." Bevan on Attlee as "a dedicated calculating machine." Wilson: "I've been reading in bed for 3 months to allow others to indulge their consciences." The Labour Party owes to him the Order of Merit. Powell to be suspicious of men who describe themselves as "intellectuals", just as only a dolt would declare a girl who wore the label badge "I am a virgin." Healey had so many reasons to stay in the Labour Party. All the issue is badly over determined. The conference was a jamboree, with the exception of Eric Heffer.

in 1956 there were only two Jews in the Conservative Parliamentary Party, both of them Baronets. Sir Keith Joseph, son of a Lord Mayor of London

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Sir Joseph Keith, as Minister of Industry with a background in the construction industry (the firm of Bovis), became the patron of the high-minded Wreck of the Millennium Dome. He was for a while the Prince of Wales's guru. He was the right-hand man of Thatcherism. The Centre for Policy Studies, the intellectual power-house of the New Conservatism & the anti-Marxist & Republican volunteers in the Spanish civil war, Alfred Sherman wrote most of Joseph's influential speeches. His Tuesday lunches in Commons Terrace dispatched Joseph to Industry. His townhouse is principally remembered for the beady list of MPs which he supplied his senior civil servants. It contains 29 titles, two of them by Adam Smith & eight by Keith Joseph.

James Rusbridger, The Intelligence Game Illusions & Delusions of International Espionage. This book can be read as a series of hilarious Tales. British intelligence is a farce. Geoffrey Prime, "the expert at the unimaginably complex listening post at Cheltenham's GCHQ, was unmasked as a Russian spy who had sold the Russians everything they wanted to know about GCHQ. Prime, by the way, was not caught by some Byzantine operation. The enemy of Spycatcher, which is MI5, has never caught by its own devices a spy in its entire history. Prime was caught as a result of police enquiries—this "expert" listener" to enemy secrets was also a persistent child-abuser. Michael Bettaney, twice unsuccessfully vetted, was daily corrupted from Fascism to Communism. Such confusion he shared at one time with his colleagues in MI5. They boarded him to the Russian desk, & there he stole a huge

library of MI5 secrets which he stored in his home. He was only caught when he tried to stuff some of the juicier papers into the letter box of the Second Secretary of the Russian Embassy. Confused by this latest excess of British Intelligence, the secretary immediately shopped Bettaney to his superiors. The wretched Bettaney became one of the few spies actually trapped by the person he was trying to leak secrets to. "Any one who works in intelligence for more than ten years becomes slightly crazy", one Whitehall Talleyrand suggested that the time-span might be rather shorter. Who controls the "Controllers"? The Master of the Rolls recently proclaimed: "It is essential in the public interest for MI5 officers to break the law in some ways & such breaches can, & will, never be prosecuted". The Home Office speaks for the security services, but will answer to Parliament for none of their activities. Monsieur Arman with a wart on his nose was the original of Monsieur Verdurin but a quite different & more formidable personality, unamenable to Proust's alchemy. He contributed a gossip column to the Figaro under the nom de plume of "Le Topaze". Mme Arman may have been an intellectual snob but was certainly not a social one: she was proud of owning Anatole France's last house & in the least gratifies when Count Robert de Montesquiou made up to her. Meissen Gaston was one of the models for St Loup. Philippe Michel-Thiriet, The Book of Snobs (Tr. Jan Dalley) contains all possible information about information about Proust.

Jim Crace

~~Beatrice Webb~~ was Shaw's shrewdest critic, crediting him with a "flimsy acquisitive mind", & describing the Life Force as a phrase embodying "an almost encyclopaedic philosophical & biological ignorance". Shaw's strange mother was glad to learn from Ouija-board conversations with Swedenborg had passed on that her son was receiving "divine communications".

The country's considerable domestic difficulties are on daily display in violent clashes – drawn-out strikes within jogging distance of the White House. The militant right, which often sounds disturbingly like Alexis Dubcek's definition of fascism — "bayonets in search of an idea" — indeed Bush has failed to insulate the West from the narcotic & terrorist. A less optimistic scenario had the Soviets achieving, at the time of maximum weakness, their greatest triumph, the collapse or emasculation of Nato. Rupert Wilkinson's The Pursuit of the American Character focuses on "four historic American fears: ... the fear of being cowed ... the fear of falling apart ... the fear of sinking down ... & the fear of falling away from a pure White & Protestant". Only occasionally can public policy be reduced to a compliance of these fears. Rival trade blocs led, respectively, by the West Europeans (Britain, by the FRG), the Japanese & the U.S., with the latter forced to organise a trade-system out of the bits & pieces rejected by its competitors.

It is like a Gothic, of Kafkan, caricature now playing high in the academy which should eventually silence the fear & hopes of Drugs Advertising Boards. The F.D.A. is that part of the U.S. Government charged with the

* The Museum of Modern Art

labelling of products. Do they meet the minimum requirements of things that are good for you? Be there is certain ingredient, additives or local colouring that need to be exposed by analytical criticism. The spirit of the FDA is intended to reduce your reliance for guidance to rational consumer friendly so you can be better that so that many years have had a reputation for cooking, hoping to get nutrients like the warnings printed about cigarettes, the cautions about eggs & chocolate, or the recent scare in the U.S about apple, meaning being heard about this notice — that naturality is biased towards evil, that rebellious compassion is a form of imperialism, that characters we're learned to think are ideological plants — all these aren't for long distract the healthy readers from going back to the classics or to some plate of infotainment goods.

4 Alba Tolett, Famous for Fifteen Minutes: My Years with Andy Warhol. Warhol was branded out for the post of Jimmy Carter's official photographer, & Reagan to place the glitz-in-style ~~table~~ dinner tables of Ronnie & Nancy. It was in MOMA's brilliant democracy garden in March 1960 that the Swiss "happening" artist Jean Tinguely exposed his homage to New York. The exhibit consisted of a vast Heath Robinson or Rube Goldberg device, fashioned from old bike parts, plaster-pieces, jars, balloons & other detritus. In the presence of Governor Nelson Rockefeller & many other dignitaries, Tinguely's work set itself on course to destroy, thereby self-destruction. The event, for

many people, mainly in the period of "non-judgmental" art criticism. Many Duchamp, Warhol's original Pop guru, committed suppressly that the were wrong in the movement to "destroy art before it's too late." Warhol's own Pop creations were more Duchampian/Dadaesque than anybody's: Warhol admits to have had for a synthesis of the Dada-Nihilism of Duchamp & Céline. He drew his pleasures easily. Unsophisticated or even brutalized by sex was to Warhol, both destined to be helpful to proselytize for him. Burroughs was a terrible influence on Warhol in. However, once Andy began to talk the tough, Warhol took to it. He would avoid restaurants where "painters" were hanging out. He cold-shouldered friends who refused to ride in taxis with them. However he was judgmental all along, mostly secretly to himself, of the Rich and Famous whom he lovingly & helpfully courted. His life & work mirrored his own-committed obsessive. His life's occluded sanctity was made much of by some critics, most in his memorial in St Patrick's cathedral. His final painting, The Last Supper was described by himself as "Demonic." Thus we have the perfect kitsch of the commercial artist who turned the cross at last. When asked by the stupid question "Why were you the one to get shot?" he replied brilliantly "I was in the wrong place at the right time." The so-many-gifts for toys & pleasures "It became normal practice for anyone who dropped by to become to sign Andy's name on Brillo Boxes, Marilyns, various versions of the Soup Cans."

Literary Review, Nov. 1989

A briefly fashionable book reviewer has urging readers of the Independent last September that literary prizes are a danger to the health of British novels. This is a burden I have been carrying for nearly 20 yrs. A female guest, caught short & confused by the club's inadequate arrangements, who forced to avail herself of the gentlemen's lavatory. I hope somebody or some firm will offer to put up £100 so that we can continue our second prizes. some great captain of industry, perhaps who always came second at school, or any family person with a particular compassion for life's also-rans, near-winners who never quite make it! Amis seems a particularly glaring exclusion from the Booker shortlist, rather like the exclusion of Graham Greene year after year from the ponderous deliberations of the Nobel Committee

2 They always see both sides of the argument so clearly that they do not know which side they are on. 5 Boris Kagarlitsky recently wrote a book about the 20th century Russian intelligentsia The Thinking Reed. Coleridge was instinctively enthusiastic for a reed shaken by whatever wind had begun to blow in his direction. He was forever prevaricating, forever a victim of the fatal genius of being all things to all men." If he met us with a crowd of Republicans he would make jokes about the King; but in Germany where he visited England student were all for the King. Pitt & Country he led the singing of Rule Britannia. Kitty Wedgwood, the wife of Coleridge's benefactor, wrote: "An excessive good nature & sensibility is just too for Word, Public Fire & Assurance,

What poor Gabriel ever did to deserve such a tribute one shudders to think.

at least I cannot, I excite no suspicion that that he is acting." Shelley characterised him as "A hooded eagle among blinking owls." Shaw once complained to H. G. Wells that he couldn't get any privacy. Children would come up to him in the park & ask for his autograph. Wells replied: "Well, Shaw, if you don't like publicity, why don't you cut off your head?" After the break-up of her marriage to Cyril Connolly Barbara Skelton married in succession Lord Weidenfeld & Professor Derek Jackson. Her last matrimonial romance was with a lover Bernard Oldom Françoise Sagan. Another

C. J. A. Lisson, On the look-out: ... the error of those who reason that because they have published ~~published~~ poems, therefore they are poets."

"Pour je suis jeune, dit-il, et j'ai tout le temps de vieillir." The photo is a bit like Lord Snowdon's self-portrait by Robert Mapplethorpe (who died of AIDS last year), in which he moons the camera with a whip sprouting from his rear. It was to have been part of a retrospective of the photographer's work at the Corcoran Museum in Washington that was cancelled by a government arts grant. Senator Jesse Helms from North Carolina got wind of this proposed legislation that would bar Federal arts funds from being used to "promote, disseminate or produce obscene or indecent materials ..." The slippery slope arguments run: the Helms measure is the thin end of the wedge: first you ban funds for Mapplethorpe, then you ban funds for Shakespeare ... Mapplethorpe regarded the Crucifixion of Christ as "the most powerful S/M symbol of all time".

Encounter, Nov. 1989

Of the London celebrity press short, security was as tight as for a Presidential visit. My culture-snobbery soon took a pratfall. As change grows more headlong & the world less prepossessing, nostalgia, la mode rétro, has understandable appeal. Anyway, this is giving the orders. One of the great social revolutions of our century has been the rise of the teenager. Jeans, sneakers, & rock music are the obvious examples. Teenagers have become immensely more self-confident. A further instalment of the youth-snobbery denounced by Goodhart Lewis in 1932 is Doom of Youth.

31 Of the Warsaw Pact it is said that "even the opposite of what he claims cannot be trusted." The man on the Budapest omnibus finds it perplexing that images of a crime-ridden New York City, a slummy Glasgow or a racist France - can no longer be ascribed to Communist propaganda alone; authentic evidence now reaches him from American, British & French sources unhindered by interference. Under Stalin & Brezhnev, the image of a rich & egotistic West became a psychological counter weight to repression & poverty. "Over there", it was said, stands the Celestial city.[32] A Soviet listener wrote to the radio: "One day you tell us that the West is teetering on the brink of a precipice. The next day you say we are determined to overtake them." For obvious material & technological reasons, Communist societies are trying to claw their way on to the bandwagon. Drugs (suggestively, one of the earliest & utopias went by the names of "Cockaigne"), the environment, keeping abreast societies mixed & unmanageable moments of cultural

Thy must not cross his boredom Rhodes.

security. If the global reformation turns out to be more managerial than moral, what guarantee will be there of perpetual peace? The ugliness of British football hooliganism & the widespread use of narcotics in the US Army have been brought into every East European home. The more thoughtful members of the East-Central European intelligentsia are appalled at what they see as Western & "Pop-Culture", the sleazy trash culture of the West that washes them from our shores in the name of intellectual liberty.

34 War games are sweeping Britain. Hundreds of civilians dress in full combat gear daily to shoot one another for fun. Armed with air pistols, they invade the countryside firing pellets filled with coloured dye. Although participants are trapped by the paint, no one is seriously hurt. Supporters say the game will develop lateral thinking skills, useful in business & the hostile jungle of everyday life.[35] The first players were business & financial executives. Now the appeal has spread across the spectrum![36] President Mitterand sees China through bicentennial spectacles. The Chinese in 1989, he said in Montreal, equal the French in 1789. The importance of easy communication in at least one other language was shown by the Schmidt-Giscard relationship, conducted by both in fluent English; political leaders who lacked or English or French were in back during informal discussion more or the other language. The British reacted to the word sovereignty "with all the predictability of one of Pavlov's dogs."

In the Exe County Hall in Exeter the lavatory doors were marked simply "Men" & "Women". The reason given was that "Men" & "Women" were statements of fact while "Ladies" & "Gentlemen" were presumptions

107 Neal Ascents

London Review of Books. 28 Sept. 1988

The sado-masochist in Waugh must have taken his own kind of satisfaction in the thought that he was for ever excluded, no matter how many clubs they belonged to & distinguished meals they ordered. When Waugh converted, Edith Sitwell remarked absently to him that she saw no point in becoming a Catholic unless one belonged one to of the old Catholic families.

For decades the Barber Surgeons lanced boils, cut for the stone & trimmed whiskers indiscriminately. Then the surgical specialists got a little education, left off hair-dressing & became a profession

16 The absorption of venerable middle & small-sized publishing houses into conglomerates, often with non-publishing or foreign management at the highest level. Random House UK owns Jonathan Cape, Chatto & Windus, Bodley Head. Secker & Warburg all nowadays just a small piece on a small square on a large board called multinational industry. Stripped down to essentials, publishers have one function — the provision of risk capital for the books of their choice. Risk building nowadays requires very deep pockets, so the bank-manager breathes down the the publisher's neck. Author-poaching & head-hunting. The function of the best-seller list is not to record sales but to stimulate them. Best-sellers need hyping & at a thousand or more pounds for a spot advertisement only firms with large budgets will be in the game. Economic returns for books on which large advance payments & expensive publicity are bestowed will require large & fast sales.

a thin trickle of interest, if not a flood
Some lodged in [illegible]-filled rooms, not in the
Ballot-box.

Caleb Williams: "Go to, ignorant fool, & visit the scene of our prisons!
... After that show me the man shameless enough to rise up & say,
England has no Bastille!" Earnby 181, William Godwin was embark-
ed on what Wm St Clair properly calls a "long slow retreat." Prose
so soon, with incessant "retractations", for the rest of his life. But for
all his "long slow retreat", he did not sell the place.
A Senderoista [of Peru] blandly said: "New birth is always produced
in blood."

Gordon Reeves of Books, 26 Oct 1989

The House of Commons is the knockabout mixture of a boxing ring,
with very few Queensberry rules, & pure theatre, with each participant
MP called upon from time to time to be an actor (or hypocrites in the
original Greek sense). Here is a tiresome left-wing myth that England
declared war on Revolutionary France. Revolutionary France declared
war on Great Britain on 1 Feb 1793; she declared war on the Dutch
Republic at the same time.

"Islam means surrender. The very word is like the echo of a forehead
knocking repeatedly on the floor, while the buttocks are proffered to the
empty, theatrical sky with in the most ancient gesture of submission &
resignation." The campaign of physical violence originated in South
Africa. India & Saudi Arabia had already banned the novel by the autumn
of last year, while forgoing the demand that the author's head should
also be forfeit. It was only when Rushdie was embarking for
Johannesburg that the physical force faction took a hand. He had been

14 "Mrs Torture" (Thatcher).
He points in the waste alongside the beauty spots
He was catapulted into public prominence
invited to give the Keynote address at an anti-censorship conference
organised by the Weekly Mail, a doughty anti-apartheid organ, & has
closed himself in advance with the African National Congress. But
wasn't the Afrikaners who lit the fuse. The Muslim establishment in
South Africa destroyed the anti-apartheid & anti-censorship conference
by announcing a "holy war" against Rushdie & by threatening the Weekly
Mail with violence. Not only was the paper itself thereupon closed by Govern-
ment just the same week as Rushdie was due to arrive, but the regime
also banned The Satanic Verses

16 Richard Crossman: "The way to become a Minister is better to lick
arses than the leadership or kick them in the political goalies — you
can't do both. I may have fallen between my own two stules in my
own conduct."

Mrs Thatcher, like Hedda Gabler, thinks of herself as her father's daughter.
~~For a hero~~ What we chiefly know of Alderman Alfred Roberts is not the
elusive Beatrice, is that her daughter is/she her self to be known as well.
Mrs Thatcher ~~went~~ goes so far as to exclude the customary reference to her
Mother from the account of herself that she gives in Who's Who. She did
the one thing most women decently do: she married a millionaire. She
was deprived of "her deprecatory pleasures": the epithet without a secret
The deformed proud & self-admiring rhetoric of in works of modern literary
theory.... self-important semi-illiteracy (Frank Kermode). In the modern
academy people often do very well by talking about what they are not actually
doing (Stanley Fish) for "original" but not "originating" (Derrida's term)
Notes:

It is better to be half-baked than ill-baked.

I liked the car, & at once proposed a resonant quiet Call me the Innocent Abroad You can take the boy out of London but you can't take London out of the boy: He was her ultimate husband

30 When Philip Rahv sent Trotsky a copy of the first issue of Partisan Review, the great man sent back a diatribe against the letter: "It is my general impression that the editor are capable, educated & intelligent people but they have nothing to say." Mary McCarthy's toughness & charm are the product of a peculiar genetic cocktail, combining Irish Catholic, New England Protestant & Middle European Jewish ancestry. Her parents were killed in the great flu of 1918 & she was subsequently brought up by her great-aunt & her husband, the monstrous uncle Myers of Memoirs. Mouth-breathing was thought to be a bad thing, so the children's mouths were taped shut at night. When Mary won a prize in a State-wide essay competition, Myers confiscated the $25 windfall & beat her with a razor strop to prevent her getting "stuck-up". Her novels are based closely on real people — "real plums in imaginary puddings" is her own formulation. The character Gertrude in Randall Jarrell's Pictures from an Institution is based on McCarthy.

In Sweden, the physical punishment of children is now an offence & children can take their parents to court if necessary. Swedish prison cells look like hotel rooms; conjugal visits are routinely allowed but encouraged; there is regular unsupervised furlough. Embarrassingly, the European Court of Human Rights has found Sweden in breach of its Convention on no less than seven occasions.

to do a head-count of intellectual or artistic Jews.

London Review of Books, 9 Nov. 1989

Jews initially integrated successfully, or so it seemed in the 1860s & 1870s when Liberals dominated the Imperial government. They were also disliked & resented. They were in Vienna but only dubiously so. Since the Hapsburg Emperor could not fight their wars without resources & expertise, an East & court Jews formed an alternative aristocracy. "To feel German means to feel free," Adolf Jellinek, who later became the leading Jewish preacher in Vienna, had written in 1848. The pan-German fraternities began excluding Jews & finally declared them to be "devoid of honour" i.e. unfit duelling partners. The baptised Jew who had, in Heine's phrase, bought his entry ticket to European civilisation, could gain limited acceptance in the public service, exclusive clubs, in rare cases even the Army.

Robin Day: "Better to be openly reticent than spuriously candid." Burke's complaints about the jargon in which the French revolutionaries wrapped their misdeeds is reminiscent of the complaints levelled by opponents of the Vietnam War against the bobbledegook in which the politicians wrapped the facts of murder & atrocity. Attacking Brissot, Burke observed that "the whole compass of language is tried to find synonymes & circumlocutions for massacre & murder... agitation... effervescence... exercise of revolutionary power." Yet he opposed to strip away the polite fictions that made the politics of the Ancien Régime possible. Carlyle has much less simply hostile to the Revolution than Burke often borrowed from him, e.g. Burke's emphasis on the "sham" of the Ancien Régime gives intense energy to the edge of his criticism of the Revolution.

In Robert Nye's novel, The Memoirs of Lord Byron, his Lordship democratically dropped his breeches for cooks or countesses. I am not wholly convinced that the man who wrote "She walks in beauty like the night" could observe (of a different lady, naturally): Her colour tasted of anchovies."

Beckett's play What Where (1983) ends: "Time passes. / That is all. / Make sense who may. / I switch off."

London Review of Books, 23 Nov. 1989

Richard Rorty: "Anything can be made to look good or bad by being re-described." Can the redescription of, say, Auschwitz, make it look good to those very people who thought that it was derisible? "It is central to the idea of a liberal society that, in respect to words as opposed to deeds, persuasion as opposed to force, anything goes." The reservation is not only important but conventional. But why should Rorty believe that these liberal distinctions can be defended or even understood if we are do not take seriously the idea of telling the truth? Is the idea of persuasion itself, as opposed to mere force, independent of the notions of the truth?"

G. J. Warnock, J. L. Austin. Austin had a legendary reputation. His intellectual powers are said to have struck terror into the hearts of his contemporaries. One tends to hear more about his reputation than his ideas. The impression conveyed by Warnock's book is that Austin was almost pathologically incapable of getting anything right. "His reputation owed much to his certainly formidable personality: A certain jaunty contempt

* on TLS, 5 April 1991, Alexandre Kojève on "la fin de l'histoire"

is never easy to frame the purpose of his book, but in the most part his doctrines are shallowly obscure: Austin detected in the work of philosophers "a persistent tendency to invent ill-defined & slippery technical terms, premature generalization" &c. Warnock adds Austin's precisely these failings. Was Austin peculiarly prone to these occupational hazards—& by Freudian projection tends to see them all around him? The alleged dichotomy between "the" constative" & the "performative" use of language subsequently evaporates into the insistence that all uses of language have a performative aspect or are speech acts.

Heidegger insisted that genuine philosophy has only been done in Greek & German & that true genuine thinking can only be done in German. In his 1966 interview in Der Spiegel he said: "It is something which the French are always confirming for me today when they begin to think, they speak German: they say despairedly that they would not manage it in their language" He declared that it is more important to see, not just what a thinker explicitly thought, but what the thinker left unthought. When philosophers like Heidegger do try to avoid saying certain things explicitly, they may end by saying them implicitly.

14 Evidently. It is remarkable that an essay by a State Department official in the Conservative Quarterly the National Interest should provoke a storm of debate in the US & be syndicated by papers throughout the world. The burden of Francis Fukuyama's argument

is that we are witnessing the end of history. This end will not be cataclysm or utopia. History, in the sense of fundamental ideological & political change, will cease with the worldwide triumph of Western liberalism. The Soviet Union ended the war as a victorious superpower, but its ideology rapidly ceased to have the capacity to move beyond the range of Russian tanks. Glasnost has legislated a regime based on illusion & lies. The fact that Western Cobefalo have suddenly found themselves secure in the mid-1980s has generated an immense feeling of relief. Fukuyama's essay gives expression to this mood & provides it with a coherent rationale by using a neo-Hegelian philosophy of history. His theme is deeply congenial to the US in that it both contradicts & yet follows Kurtz upon the heels of another intellectual cause célèbre. How refreshing it is when Paul Kennedy's gloomy best-seller The Rise & Fall of the Great Powers dominated discussion in 1988. Americans can feel confident in the future while they hold to the ideals of democracy & free market. But almost everything else in this essay is sheer cheek-ja. It is staggering to see Fukuyama seek to derive support from Hegel who is notorious for his spirited critique of liberalism & regards representative democracy as a disaster. Dialectic is conceived as a potentially infinite development. What presumption can stay the dialectic & pronounce history at its end? Are there not "contradictions" within liberalism capable of sustaining history

16. West-York has been called "a melting pot which won't melt"
+ author of La folla delinquente (1981); of Letteratura italiana,
IV, p. 626, esp. note 5.

into the foreseeable future? Democracy is also deeply compromised in its
major heartlands. Our liberal-democratic policies for low levels
of accountability & citizen influence have increased into organs of
democratic ideals. Political Price an option only for the relatively
wealthy, government is highly centralized & secretive. Representative
democracy becomes little more than a plebiscite, & so little
more than legitimate the power of the governing party.[15] Unrestrained
economic liberalism poses a very real threat to political democracy
because it permits the growth of grossly unequal influence by the
major business corporations. The unregulated free market does
not guarantee economic equality. From the Olympian detachment
of the State Department, Fukuyama comes close to telling us we
live in the best of all possible worlds. He supposes the free mar-
ket & the command economy to be polar opposites & ignores what may
lie between.

"J'ai horreur de la foule", admitted Hippolyte Taine, author of the
vastly hostile history of the French Revolution. Foule can be transl-
ated as "crowd" or "mob". Gustave Le Bon offered the politicians
a manual for crowd manipulation; he achieved best sales in many
languages & many a posthumous political commendation (fascist &
otherwise), although never in his lifetime the full academic recognition
he had always craved. Scipio Sighele*, Gabriel Tarde. The crowd
appeared to be always more than the sum of its parts. The crowd is
a motif which stretches across Zola's novels. The castration scene in

Germinal (1885), much discussed by crowd theorists, describes a mob of frenzied women from the mining village who seize a man identified with the police & "doctor" him. The crowd was not a sign of social solidarity or a symbol of democracy. Le Bon had drawn on Herbert Spencer for the evolutionary key to the phenomenon of the crowd. Development & progress was defined by Spencer as the passage from the homogeneous to the heterogeneous structure. Retrogression was literally the return towards the undifferentiated state.

L. Eden Review of Books, 7 Dec. 1989

The deal was done on 26 September 1969 for a giveaway price of under £1 million. The Hugh J Cudlipp Sun finally set on Saturday 15 Nov. 1969. The Rupert J Murdoch Sun, a tabloid, rose on Monday 17 November. Not was ever going to be the same in Fleet Street again. Producing a really good pop paper often demands more élan than charm. Out a "leading" Mirror had been naked girls before, but not as a regular diet on a specific page each day. In general, topicalness was OK as long as it wasn't too explicit. But now, Lawrence Sun made nipples part of the British way of life & Page Three part of the English language. The paper started to publish guides to sexual activity, & increasingly aimed them towards teenage girls. e.g. "How to take off your clothes before your boyfriend." The violent cruelty of political irony. Most British newspapers are, from the top of the market to the bottom, unforgivably worse now almost every respect than they were before "Rupe" became the household name in Fleet Street.

Dean Inge: "The Church that is married to the Spirit of the Age will be a widow in the next." a choice between the nailed hand [Christ] and the mailed fist [Fascism]."

Interviews are made up, quotes are invented, the personal lives of little people are invaded along with those of the more vulnerable as the paper managed to pole-vault from the bottom of the Fleet Street heap to the top.

In the 1870s there were in Vienna 402 Bourses de change, of which two are were in the hands of Christians.

Roy Porter, Health for Sale: Quackery in England 1660-1850. What would you do if you had toothache, in the world of pre-modern dentistry? Those of us who have suffered a weekend of it can probably imagine (in the end) getting a friend to pull the tooth out with pliers but what if the tooth was abscessed? or impacted? An impacted tooth growing sideways underneath the other ones? The thought casts a new light on the side-remark of Chaucer's Northern student in Reeve's Tale: "Sire Maunciple, I hope he will be deed / Sire werkes ay the wronges in his heed" — I expect he'll die, the teeth in his head hurt so continuously. Some people, it's said, learnt to pull teeth out with their fingers alone. It must, or it ought to have been, a prized skill. But for centuries if not millennia, if you couldn't read, write or preferably talk Latin, you were a mere "empiric", a mountebank, a charlatan, a quack. Joshua Ward (1685-1761) was widely regarded as a quack, & drawn as such by Hogarth, along with the Epsom bone-setter Sally Mapp, in The Company of Undertakers! But he put back George II's dislocated thumb when the licensed physicians of the day all told the King he had gout & was just going to have to put up with it. The Hand of Hogarth's "undertakers",

John "Chevalier" Taylor (1703-72), seems to have been an evident
crook, & he boasted of his success at seducing patients, talked what he
called the true *Ciceronian" (i.e. always ending every period with a verb),
may have been the death of both Bach & certainly did nothing for Handel.
Still, he clearly removed a lot of cataracts; he had a steady hand &
a sharp knife; there is something horrid in his own account of how he cured
a noble lady of a drooping eyelid, she calling out while he operated, "You
hurt me! You hurt me!" he replying, "Remember Lady, beauty! beauty!";
but it is hard to see that he was doing much more than many a respect-
able but basically bedside-orientated Anglican (plastic) now. The neo-
scopists or "piss-prophets" of Tudor medicine in pre-modern times
seems to have had all too little to do other than order bedside manners
& thumping doses of purgatives. Respectable medicine in former times
was strongly "patient oriented." One major reason why people now
go to homeopaths or acupuncturists is that the latter usually listen a great
deal harder than GPs. The archetypal Mountebank used to be the man who
sold you a bottle of mercury guaranteed to cure your VD, & vanished
before the side-effects became obvious; while the respectable practitioner
hung around family keys, with an inadequate pharmacopia, to beat the
Wake man. Now the respectable practitioner hands you the analgesics,
mutters that lots of people have low back pain, & hints there is a long queue
still stuck in the waiting-room.

The hiatus between past & present seems complete, the nature of
lakes & mountains having changed more subtly but as completely

a Rebel-in Mystic

as that of words. Only the pieties of literary sympathy with, say Wordsworth, can bring them back to us. Even then & we are not the same as they were then for the poet. The "environment" that Wordsworth marketed with his words has been preserved — denatured, that is — as much by the efforts to save it as by the more natural consequences of pollution & over-population. Young Sara Coleridge reported rather maliciously to her husband's brother the depression & sterility in the home of the aged Wordsworth — "settled darkness — the last storm of his Pegasus & his gentleman-like courtesy & manner."

Individuals remain individuals, & most bonds break up after a short period, simply because unselfish fusion is hard to achieve given the average human personality. Others are prolonged by mere conventional forms of leadership or by purely commercial interests. Even the Augustan Savoy Grill denied Paul Robeson entry in 1929, though it had allowed him in before. Not ignorant prejudice, apparently, but canny shopkeeping lay behind that decision. American tourists were beginning to figure big in the economy of London hotels, & to make their preferences felt. Asked to take down a memorandum, a stenographer told him: "I never take dictation from a nigger." A senior partner in the prestigious New York law firm commiserated, but supposed that indeed their white clients would never have him plead their cases before a judge.

T. J. Binyon, "Murder will out": The Detective in Fiction

Edwina Currie mounts her exercise bicycle & peddles nowhere fast.

Crime has become specialised, a full-time job on both sides of the law. The gentleman amateur has faded away completely almost entirely. There are still one or two private eyes about, but they look like busy anachronisms. Elegant variations are possible, certainly & include the professional from another area — journalism, medicine — who stumbles into an investigation. Nancy Reagan's smile has been described "a study in frozen insincerity." "Queen Nancy the Extravagant" with her costly frocks, etc. Christina Onassis was a woman who had no good looks, no interests, whose company was intolerable & whose unbrushed teeth were green. The Onassis shipping empire provided her with an income of a million dollars a week (The Guinness Book of Records 1992. Here the mostest, the bestest all are for another record year. The Greatest Omnivore, known to his ~~friends~~ compatriots as Monsieur Mangetout, specialises in the regular ingestion of ~~the~~ glass & metal objects, chandeliers, TV sets, bicycles, & even light aircraft.)

London Review of Books, 21 Dec. 1989

Roger Lonsdale (Oxford Book of 18th-Century Verse; 18th-Century Women Poets: An Oxford Anthology) has done more to change our view of the 18th Century, "the Augustan Age". Fashionable laments about the commodification of literature have a dangerously nostalgic aroma, as things edge ominously towards a near future in which a communications élite in front of state-of-~~not~~ the-art computers may exchange information forever withheld from *hoi polloi*. When Tim Cooper contributes the

Lonsdale's anthology, chronologically, continues from Germaine Greer's Kissing the Rod (1988). Keats, writing bitterly at the start of the 19th Century, complained that "the world, & especially our England has within the last thirty years been depraved & debased by a set of Devils, whom I detest — these devils take a set of women" "To the Ladies": "Pope & Bernard are the same, / Both only differ in the name." Wicked Voltaire (publishing & public) with the virtuous country dame "She never heard of half a mile from home," he really wishes that women & the virtuous remain unpublished & unpublicized. Lonsdale's densely packed informative headnotes. Not only did women poets of the Restoration & of the various Georgian periods read the male poets: they were among the poets that the male poets read. That Pope adopted a line from Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea, when he wrote "Die of a rose in aromatic pain" (Essay on Man) is constantly referred to in footnotes, but editors & critics have generally fought shy of considering the impact on Pope's other poetry of his sense of Finch's work as a whole. As Madeleine Marshall makes clear in her book on Elizabeth Singer Rowe, despised the DNB grudgingly acknowledged, Pope made in "Eloisa to Abelard" a half-quotation from Rowe's "Upon the Death of her Husband". Rowe was widely read in America, & an influence on Emily Dickinson. A "Miss W—" presents a spirited retort to one of Swift's most notorious poems: "The Gentleman's Study. In Answer to the Lady's Dressing-Room", "Her Hair tho' Gold, & Eyes tho' Eyes: "For there some Locks lay on the Ground, / One side was yellow, t'other brown; / And velvet breeches (on her word), / The inside all bedaubed with Lard." cf. Mary Jones of Oxford, admired by Thomas Warton, shows an almost equally Swiftian boldness in mentioning the unmentionable, describing the General's distressed Stomach & release of wind: "He wisely thinks the nose 'tis best, / The more th'evil struggle for a vent." Mrs & her primary poem, "Holy Water. A Tale

In Mary Leapor's "Strephon to Celia" the woman sends her coy nymph a clay-; dit Hob-
doux doll / the would can't: dull like pearls & eyes but dark hairs – hyperbole tearing
to the final object of his desire: "Now, madam, do the chat goes round / & hear
you have her thousand pound." Keats begged for some real feminine modesty
in those lines

for included in Poems by Eminent Ladies (1755). In Anna Laetitia Barbauld's "To a Little Invisible Being who is Expected Soon to Become Visible" the speaker, the expectant mother, calls upon the baby in her womb: "Haste, infant bud of being, haste to bloom." The mother will gladly endure "nature's sharpest pains ... / That free thee from thy living tomb." This poem could not have been written by a man, not because an 18th-cent. man would never try to imagine being female & being pregnant (think of Defoe's Moll & Roxana), but because the male hierarchical world is ignored. The blind poet Priscilla Pointon's "Address to a Bachelor on a Delicate Occasion" describes that the narrator, on a visit, experienced an emergency more pressing than surprising: "But say, how can my Muse declare / The situation of the pair, / That full six hours had sat, or more, / Nor once been out the door? / Tea, wine, & punch, Sir, to be free / Excellent diuretics be." The narrator needed to visit the privy, but to her dismay all the female servants were out, & there was no woman to help her. The gentleman host joked in an insulting way about her plight, though another gentleman with a kinder heart offered to conduct her past her. This "Address" & the women poets could be rebuked for not writing enough about love, much as Walter Scott rebuked Jane Austen. Women are often accused of peddling their minds with romantic love, but men seem very disconcerted if they find that romantic love is not on the female side agenda. Lonsdale's collection has very little "love poetry" in the conventional sense. If we thought modest women shunned wide love poems only to a husband (dead or alive) Wordsworth thought the two

lines praising the Countess of Salisbury were a blemish in Anne Finch's "A Nocturnal Reverie", & an editor in the 1920s took Wordsworth's comments seriously & cut out the offending lines. There are a good many poems on Marriage — most of them against it. Mary, Lady Chudleigh in "To the Ladies": once the Woman has pronounced the fatal word "Obey", she must "Still be governed by a nod, / And fear her husband as her God / ... / Then shun, oh! shun that wretched state." Lady Mary Wortley Montague's ruthless & verbose "The Lover. A Ballad" is one of the 18th. Century's most successful poems about unsuccessful sex. The poem was popular, & Hester Lynch Piozzi remembered it in Venice. Frances Lonsdale observes with puzzlement the female poets' "low, for not always flattering self-depiction". Frances Amherst wrote, in "A Prize Riddle or Herself When 24": "My visage is round, just the shape of a bowl, / With a great pair of grey eyes resembling an owl." Elizabeth Tollet in "On Viewing Herself in a Glass", wonders: "Was Nature angry when she formed my clay? / Or, urged by haste to finish, could not stay?" Mary Leapor presents a comic portrait of herself as she might be described by two neighbouring servants "like a Picture. A Pastoral."

The East Germans have always been considered relatively well off by Comecon standards. The privations & hardships which the ordinary GDR citizen was made to undergo in Name of Socialism were not shared by Honecker & his fellow guardians of Socialist ideological purity with their Swiss bank accounts. Refugees from the GDR had to find it difficult to adjust to

the ruling "elbow society" of the Federal Republic. In 1918, the inhabitants of what was known as German-Austria were virtually unanimous in wanting their country's absorption into the [illegible] Weimar Republic. The merger was prevented by the Western Allies. It was an Austrian statesman, Ignaz Seipel, who then coined the phrase "one nation, two states." An economic giant but a political pygmy. On the border, the West Germans have stopped handing bananas to incoming visitors from the East & are hostile and contemptuous instead. Hitler is a major worry in the Federal Republic.

The Historikerstreit erupted with E. Nolte's paper first published in English under the title "Between Myth & Revisionism? The Third Reich in the Perspective of the 1980s", in Aspects of the Third Reich, ed. by H.W. Koch. His main "revisionist" argument is that the policy & practice of annihilation was in no sense unique, that it is comparable with the practice of the French Revolution & its opponents, with the "therapy of annihilation" of the radical wing of Malthusianism", with the inhumanity of the Industrial Revolution & before all with the "Red Terror" of the Bolshevik Revolution (Cambodia & Vietnam are thrown in for good measure). The Third Reich's anti-semitism is regarded as a mere by-product of German anti-Bolshevism. Sie ist die erste nicht, as Mephistopheles sneeringly said to Faust filled with remorse & guilt. Walter Laqueur rejected the term "Holocaust" (a sacrificial offering totally consumed by fire in celebration of God); the correct term should be "Judeocide".

John Paul Rupo, I. A. Richards: His Life & Work. The man who, at the onset of his literary career, had presumed a conflict of Science & Poetry, subsequently rewrote the text as Sciences & Poetries, an infiltration of planes which entirely changes the nature of the conjuncture. He was vigorous to the end of his life (80). He worked polymathically. His work suffered the neglect of which he himself was conscious from at least 1931 (the matters were to get worse). A brilliant lecturer, he derided the lecture as a mode of teaching. He was contemptuous of biography. By 1971 Richards was awake. Rupo, a valued graduate assistant & friend, hoped to write his life. Richards, heart against mind, suppose a biography of thought. The history of any man's thoughts leads back to his past; even Descartes, with his endeavor at self-excision, could not avoid his German winter, Quarters & his room with a stove. When Rupo, in 1977, published an essay on Richards's Mountaineer & his poems about Mountains, Richards strongly objected to "the excessive personal element" involved. In this book, Rupo has gone far beyond what Richards took to be his brief. "A city that forgets its half-gotten", & attempts to inhibit or manipulate biographers & editors in the long run always rebound

Literary Review, Jan. 1990

4 We are X I suspect the only nation on earth which, having long ago ceased to behead or disembowel our monarchs, now forces them by way of permanent penance for royal folly to remain locked one night a year in a box at the London Palladium while watching a show apparently

The company runs down to Minor civil wars under the tag line "As close to reality as you dare go". passionate in bed, compassionate in victory
He went to Oxford. Don't they teach English there?

designed to prove that not only is Nancy dead, but that it won't. returns annually from beyond the grave. The late Marie Lloyd banned from the first 8 lines in 1912 hired an adjacent theatre & billed herself as appearing "not by royal [Command] but by PUBLIC demand." Most of the acts appear to have risen from the grave for the occasion.

Hanan al-Shaykh's Women of Sand & Myrrh Arabian Nightmares. A young Turkish girl is married off to a Sultan from one of the Arab states. She will be divorced just as rapidly unless she becomes pregnant. In case the Sultan's seed fails to take, various servants & guards are on hand with conception help. She learns that she would [illegible] have to lean against the door after the first time asleep, & when she hears a rattle, she would lift her right knee & drop her pants down around her feet & press against the door just then there was a big wide hole, & there would be a man outside already. 8

Flann O'Brien on the Celtic Twilight as "pure celtic toilet", & the Gaelic League as the "Gaelic Leak". "slogh, a dead horse" [slogh, a slain horse]

Sir Larry Lamb is an expert on tit & fun. His transformation of the Sun from a dim little leftist paper to the best selling daily in the English language was certainly a striking achievement, though he is scarcely able to see anything but Nookie & innocence in its nipple-strewn pages. The question is why our enormously expensive state education system turns out such vast armies of tabloid fodder.

As sensationalism flourished in the newspapers, it also emerged in the novels of Dickens, Wilkie Collins, Charles Reade & others. These

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He, who can be godly in foreign parts, may be an innocent at home.
Humphrey Carpenter, The Inklings, a group autobiography of the Tolkien-Lewis-Charles Williams circle.

melodramatic tales of murder & madness were distinguished from the gothic novels of the 18th century by their "true" newspaper tone. "Read your newspaper, Mr Armadale & you'll just see Live in pipe time for the black sheep of the community — if they are only black enough" — Collins' Armadale

It can scarcely be doubted that the World, Millamant, who has been in love with Mirabell, stays when she proposes to her: "My dear liberty, shall I leave thee? My faithful Solitude, my darling Contemplation, must I bid you then adieu? Ay, adieu.... I can't do't, 'tis more than impossible." In theory I still do not want to be married, but have been overtaken by life

C. S Lewis's posthumous reputation has fallen into the hands of 2 rival groups. The provincial non-Conformists of Wheatley College Church who most of his papers are unhappy with his heavy drinking & smoking (60 cigarettes a day between pipes) While the High Church group led by Walter Hooper prefer to think of Lewis as a celibate despite his long-standing relationship with a woman 25 years his senior (Mrs Moore) & his eventual marriage to an American ~~divorcee~~ divorcee, Joy Gresham.

45 Came the 4 June, the Monster reared its arse on Tiananmen Square, disgustingly, in view of the World.

56 Neville Braybrooke, ed., Seeds in the Wind: 20th Century Juvenilia From W. B. Yeats to Ted Hughes. In 1914, ~~when~~ & when he was 11, George Orwell was raving jingoist. In a three stanza poem called "Awake! Young Men of England!" he accused all those who did not volunteer to be

I am chary of prophecy

slaughtered of cowardice (published in Henley & Oxfordshire Standard). A year later he was bemoaning the nation's loss of Kitchener's noble breed."

Hugh Trevor-Roper, Encounter, Dec. 1989.

3 "The dictatorship of proletariat" is moribund, though the system it was always claimed to have privileged access to "the logic of history." No revolutionary ideology preserves its full content for long. The essential unit in historical change is "the generation"; & the generation that has been brought on ideological battle or crusade, building an empire on a revolutionary basis has a different attitude towards the world from that of the next generation which takes it for granted. Historically, all revolutions lose their ideological content in measurable time — sometimes quite soon. An empire based on an ideological revolution virtualises its ideology or adjusts. Ideologies are very elastic & can be adapted to all kinds of circumstance. If Hitler had won his war, the next generation would have gone through a similar experience. The history of Christianity suggests a parallel. The revised theology can spring from a hitherto neglected or "misinterpreted" source within the movement. Within Communism we have Euro-Communism. That's exactly what has happened in Christianity: what was once heresies became the source, within the old Christian envelope of a new dynamism. Christianity itself is a Jewish heresy. If Hitler had won his war, the Nazi party nearly did, Marxism would have collapsed & its political base in Stalinist Russia would have disappeared. An established Nazism could then have bred its own National-Socialist heresies. Nazism succeeded because the old philosophy of "the German Mission" who grafted

historical

Russia was deprived of its Ukrainian food basket

on to it. It was men like the Secretary of State Ernst von Weizsäcker, father of the present President of the Federal Republic, who provided the sort of explanation that would have been used by sophisticated Euro-Nazis in a post-Hitlerian empire. An old imperialist desired Nazism but served it because his eyes were fixed on the German Mission. Weizsäcker senior was responsible for the diplomatic arrangements with Hitler's so-called allies — Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia — for the transfer of their Jews to the extermination camps. He said: "Great historical changes cannot be carried out without ~~historical~~ certain amount of crime." In other words you disdown the crime because the historical changes are welcome. If Hitler had won, the Weizsäckers would have claimed "Nazism nevertheless presented us with an empire which the Kaiser had vainly sought in 1914-18." The appeasers said: "We can't remake the world to our own specifications. We've got to face the world as it is." Ideologies are elastic. Christianity was, after all, originally a religion of the outcasts that was later adopted to be the state religion of the autocratic Byzantine Empire and pre-medieval feudal Europe.

Let us not forget that much of the Russian Empire was formed independently of Communism, by naked conquest, in the 19th century — before Marx, or in total ignorance of Marx. Think of Islam. In its first generation after the Prophet, Islam was a radical, crusading, expansionist movement. The austere, fundamentalist impetus thereof never evaporated, for the Islamic institutions remained intact,

periodically reinvigorated by fundamentalist revival. "Talking of the forms of government in ancient Greece George Grote says that if Sparta had not existed no one would have thought such a form of government was a possibility. The Marquis de Custine, writing from Russia in 1857, ~~speaks from the Grecian~~ says: "It can be said of the Russians, great & small — they are interested with slavery." [10] A Russian statesman in 1904 recommended diplomacy as a short successful war, as a cure for internal unrest. It was not a success. The failure in Afghanistan is a fresh proof. The world's ecological interdependence on which our survival depends. One kind of "empire," economic empire, already exists everywhere in the world. Peace as economic interdependence although we may please ourselves with the illusion that Ireland & not some Latin American republic is independent. In the British, French, Dutch & Spanish empires, the cultural superiority of the metropolitan country was on the whole accepted & indeed emulated by the colonial population. But in Russia's "Elites Empire" — in Poland, Hungary & Czechoslovakia — no one would be remotely prepared to recognize that Russian cultural dependency exists. The cultural & technological "imperialism" of the West daily continues. The sovereignty & independence of all of us is now legally qualified as sovereignty & independence. [12] A united Germany could, of course, become an economic power which would dominate Europe. There is no such thing as complete sovereignty for small nations. They can have autonomy but they are parts of imperial systems, although not necessarily politically.

imperial system. Even a most independent Poland would still not be
fully in control of its destiny, because it would remain very much a
dependent element of the World economy. The economy of the Irish Repu-
blic is really dependent on that of Britain. [24] The Protestantism of
Elizabethan England, the Lutheran & Calvinist Reformations, etc
were all inspired by heresies which had been driven out of the Church
more than a millennium before. It is perfectly possible that the Script-
ures of Marx & Lenin, too, will be found to contain heresies which
we must aside in the Stalinist period & will provide an ideol-
ogically acceptable framework for Gorbachev's perestroika.
[25] Books in the field of human conflict was so much written by so
many – to be read, perhaps, by so few. The narrative of the Second
World War sinks into one-damned-thing-after-another. [27] No one, in
what was later called "the darkest days" of 1940, ever imagined that we in Britain
could be defeated. Lack of imagination? Stupidity? I suspect that it
was an unconscious Pascalian bet. It would be folly to believe
in defeat. The only chance of victory was to have faith in it. All
that sounds so Jung-hoe, the cognate French motto, pre-1940:
Nous vaincrons parce que nous sommes les plus forts.
W. H. Prescott's History of the Conquest of Mexico, written in the style
of a New England Macaulay, was an immediate success. He never went to
Mexico – for the simple reason that he was blind. D. H. Lawrence spent
altogether about 18 months in Mexico during 1923-25, in 3 separate expe-
ditions. His views about the country varied wildly: he could think of Aztec

The Kenyan novelist Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, Decolonising the Mind (1986)
not a dialogue, but a monologue with chorus.
Mrs Thatcher's "house philosopher"

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the floodgates of one's soul", "a dry desirable land" etc. In the end the deeply hostile mood triumphed partly, no doubt, because he contracted dysentery as well as dysentery & malaria. He does not seem to have been aware of any local intellectual life. Sir Malcolm Lowry's Under the Volcano presents a harsh picture of Mexico. It is almost as if the author is blaming Mexico for making alcohol so cheap & so available.

In Canada today a male spokesman for the Indian Brotherhood proclaims, "It is our tradition & our culture if we want to discriminate against women".

TLS, Jan. 6-12, 1989

In the weeks & hiding before he was arrested & died of apoplexy less than two days later in a prison cell, Condorcet wrote what is now generally considered his masterpiece, the Esquisse d'un tableau historique des progrès de l'esprit humain, a resounding declaration of faith in the triumphant power of human reason. The future is bright; the march of reason is irresistible. This is a stupendously courageous vision to be propounded by a man under the shadow of a guillotine. The philosophe preserved his faith undiminished. But the demon doubt raises the question whether, like the restored Bourbons after him, Condorcet might not be said to have learned nothing & forgotten nothing? Malice & unreason have deeper & stronger roots in the human heart than he allowed. Perhaps the Esquisse is a case of whistling in the dark. Half a dozen of his immediate relations had been guillotined in the Terror, & Tocqueville never to shake off his family's consequent dread of the

Mob. It lay behind his warning against tyranny of the majority, it lay behind his biggest mistake: his part in the War against the Workers of 1848; it inspired all his investigations into the multifarious ways in which democracy could go wrong. In America he found a dangerously original society the merits of which he were forced, in candour, to admit. He made the case against both bureaucratic centralism & violent revolution. The problems that he struggled with are our problems still & the solutions that he advocated are those we grope towards. More than Marx, he is the man for the late 20th century. He urges Franz Lieber to read the Ancien Régime in French, not English: "la meilleure traduction n'est jamais qu'une mécharite copie." Paul Bénichou, Les Mages romantiques. Hugo used the word "mage" to describe the high priest writer-genius & proceeded to create one of his most important poems on this subject. "Les mages" are of the same kind artists, thinkers, priests & infinity magic actors on a cosmic stage, explorers of the divine mystery, instruments of human progress. Hugo was the most outspoken in upholding that the poet is vates magnus, but both Lamartine & Vigny, in other registers, also affirmed the poet's responsibilities as spiritual guide with a message more inspired & more profound than philosophers, theologians etc. Vigny is a spiritual brother of Leopardi, a direct ancestor of Baudelaire & a distant precursor of the Existentialists in his courage of despair. His "L'Esprit pur" expresses the characteristic notion of the heroism of the arts

Romantic

Hugo's problematic relation to the Revolution is complicated by his life-
long vehement repudiation of violence & capital punishment.
By the 1780s the received forms of fiction were empty husks. Poetry
was so many rhyming platitudes. Nearly at first, but with increas-
-ing force, the novel chronicled out of the embalmed corpse of classicism.
The genre was suspect. Novelists to passed off their work as history,
memoirs or collections of letters. Anything to make their fictions res-
pectable. In France, between 1700 & 1750, 1000 were published; from
1750 to 1800, 2,500 new titles appeared. Disowned by literary purists,
the novel was bound by no rules & developed freely. As a form, it
proved to be supremely elastic. It accomodated satiric & didactic
(could be made as scabrous or exotic as could be wished. It became
a forum for the discussion of moral issues; it absorbed the tragic &
epic & acquired considerable formal sophistication. Hamilton's
Les Mémoires de Grammont (1713) is, in Chamfort's words, "the finest
historical romance." Gil Blas (1715-35), a shapeless but vivid
picaresque saga of survival in a hostile world, is acutely observed if
rather suspect in its moral stance; it is technically careless (When
Gil Blas finally marries he must, by the internal chronology, be 80).
In both Hamilton & Lesage, events & passes in a blur of faces & incidents,
leaving an impression of surface without depth. In Manon Lescaut (1731)
Prévost combines observation of below-stairs life with considerable
depth of psychology, moral ambiguity & a discipline of form that has its analogies
in comparisons with Racine. It is resolutely modern; the action takes place
in 1720 in recognizably Parisian locations & money is the hinge on which the

The lyric can seldom have carried so much freight & remained airborne.

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plot turns.
"The Flying Fish," incomparably the finest of John Gray's poems, is a symbolization of "aspiration born of fear": "not to be one of the sons of air, / to be rid of the water is all his prayer; / all his hope is a fear-whipped whim; / all directions are one to him."

T.L.S. - Jan. 20-26, 1989

51 The spiritual equality of all human beings deriving from their common participation of souls who regarded as compatible with vast inequalities of status, even slavery, have been endorsed by the Church during most of its history. Locke-wrote in the Second Treatise: "Though I have said ... that all Men by Nature are equall, I cannot be supposed to understand all sorts of Equality." The distinctive contribution of the French philosophes was the cutting edge they gave to the idea of natural equality by supposing that a society might be remade so as to satisfy the requirement that all social inequalities might be rationally defended. This profoundly subversive notion sent shivers down the spine of the more intelligent members of the privileged classes all over Europe. Leibniz told someone who wished he were King of China that what this wish amounted to was that he should not exist & that God should be a King in China. Personal identity without personal qualities is a prize not worth a cat. Egalitarianism figures as a policy prescription rather than a premiss. 52 The famous French Declaration was of the Rights of Man & of the Citizen. The demand for equality as the demand for sweeping away the status-linked privileges of the ancien régime & replacing them with a

an inherently long status ladder
"Disposition of resources" or "opportunities to alternative arrangements & views"
is a democratic virtue

political system of laws & taxes. A common civil status for all citizens is compatible with vast disparity of social standing. From observing that formal equality does not guarantee substantive equality, socialists & other radical leftists conclude that formal equality is a sham. But having a vote is better than not having a vote, & it is better to be a free agent than a serf or a slave. It is quite true that it is nice & a lot of fun to be free to dine at the Ritz if you don't have means, but it is still important to be debarred ~~from dining~~ there by reason of, for example, race.

53 Bill & Joan in New York, Maxine, Panama .. Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, a sad lonely figure already racked by sickness, breeded the plane that would take him, his wife, a few servants & two large dogs into exile. For 3 decades the Shah had been the keystone of Western hopes, the linchpin of US strategy against Soviet expansion. Since he was restored to his throne in a "CIA-sponsored "counter-coup" in 1953, America had been pouring arms & equipment into the country. The CIA & Mossad (the Israeli foreign intelligence service) trained & equipped SAVAK, the Shah's National Intelligence & Security Organization, which ruthlessly suppressed any political opposition. The fall of the Shah was a political earthquake that no one had anticipated, least of all the man, oh himself, a weak & vacillating man who lived in a world of make-believe. He believed in the role he assumed on the world stage. The pomp & ceremony & adoration that made him so unapproachable, the elaborateness of his personal & court ritual, persuaded many different kinds of men (e.g. Richard Nixon, Dean Rusk)

of his authority, his expertise as a world statesman. Many officials including Henry Kissinger, were impressed by his ability to extemporize on world affairs without reference to notes or briefing books. The ex-monarch, after a major embarrassment almost everywhere, was welcomed around the world like a privileged hero. Only President Sadat's personal friendship above political expediency & provided the Shah with a palace to die in & a mosque to be buried in. The Shah's former skiing companion, King Hussein, turned him down, as did Switzerland & Great Britain, where he held property (& presumably paid taxes). Carter & most Americans believed that the Shah's removal was essential to the settlement of the hostage crisis. Omar Torrijos — Graham Greene's friend & General, who sailed Panama, bottle in hand, from the rumpled beds of his numerous women friends — agreed to help Carter out, & signed the Canal ~~Treaty~~ Treaty. While on the throne, the Shah had concealed his cancer from everyone, including, at first, his wife. He feared that if Washington knew he would, he could no longer expect unqualified support, so he arranged to be treated in secret by a French specialist. As his condition worsened, other physicians became involved. Since the prestige of the patient added to the prestige of their own cancer, some of the three most ambitious faced in the opposite direction to gain access, one Vatican scrolling a dog's Buffalo. Since each considered himself to be in charge, violent quarrels soon developed. The subtleties of politicians & the egotisms of doctors are two of the themes of Wm Shawcross's The Shah's Last Ride. While other parties shouted, the Shah, however, remained

calm & dignified. He bore the slights of politicians & sailors who had once
served on him, & the incredibility of the doctors who grumbled over his
wasting body, with a style befitting the Monarch he had early aspired
to be, but had never failed to revere.
The Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius likened the monetary privileges
of philosophers: "And if they quibble about the size of their salary, they
will thereby make it clear that they are not really philosophers."
Scholarly diligence has unearthed much since the 18th century, although it may
have been gleaned is hardly calculated to make most hearts skip a
beat. The most accomplished scoop, made 5 yrs ago, concerns not
Shakespeare himself, but his father John: Shakespeare, a wool dealer,
violent money lender, sleep in interest & reputed charged with usury

TLS Jan 27 - Feb 2, 1989

The correspondence of this later (Mallarmé's) years in particular is composed
to the most part of elaborate ceremonials of politeness — thank-
you notes, birthday cards, letters of condolence or congratulation, puckish
pneus to his nurses Mary Laurent, domestic chatter with his daughter,
Geneviève, affable (& often impenetrable) acknowledgements of the file
of books & mss sent his way for criticism. Critics have occasionally
deplored what they take to be the later Mallarmé's waste of time & ability
in such futile fulfilments of epistolary obligations — mere distractions from
his real Work, these excuses to go on deferring the real & ultimate
Book. But this is just as misleading as to isolate his "major" poetry
(all 50 pages of it) from the hundreds of pages of circonstance

Had he so delighted in inserting on faro, flyleafs, Easter eggs, or stones his journalistic interviews, his toasts, hommages & tombeaux, his letters all involve an impeccable display of manners, a virtually metaphysical parody of etiquette which Sartre reports Mallarmé's "dévorisme de politesses!" Much of his troubling poetry. His untranslatable puns with which he often addressed his envelopes: "Sans s'étendre dans l'herbe verte / Naïf distributeur, merci / Du rien, cours chez Madame Berthe / Mahet, par Merlan, à Nice"; "Papi dans ton chaud Macfarlane / Ce billet, grand fou de Nicois / Lis-le haut; 6 cour Saint-François / Rue, est-ce Moreau? Cher Verlaine: / Vis a tribute to the literacy of the Third Republic's postmen that all 130 of Mallarmé's stamped envelopes eventually reached their destinations. Wrote Thibaudet to Jean Paulhan, who had interested the London publisher Heinemann in bringing out Mallarmé's "Récréations postales" in a luxury edition: The title-Mallarmé chose for these fantasies is characteristically "les Loisirs de la Poste", which prefigures today's conceptual ~~today's conceptual~~ "mail art" or Derrida's Carte postale. Although they go through the motions of communication, Mallarmé's letters are oddly self-referential or, more precisely, phatic: Dear X, I'm writing just to say I'm writing. Yours One of his favourite ways of closing his letters is the simple farewell greeting "Votre main" & "La main" — the elaborate gracious epistolary intercourse reduced in the end to a wordless handshake. By the mid-1880s, having established himself as the magus of Symbolism, he

The patient's experience; a "talking cure" in psychotherapy.
or Life in an hour; Thomeier.

began to employ his correspondence as means of self-assertiveness while appearing to remain courteously in touch. "In 1863 Mallarmé had a Spartan life he does not love & embarks on a career of teaching a foreign language it does not master. He turns down his ambitious first Hérodiade, but is soon struck by one of his recurring bouts of sterile impotence (combined to Rich & Lambert's famous affres du style seem to English Writer's blocks). complaints by parents about his intellectuality as an English teacher beaten to lead to his dismissal from his position in Tournon. The impact of Mallarmé's late prose with its eccentric punctuation can be felt in the styles of a Blanchot, Lacan, Barthes or Derrida.

According to the picture that is emerging from psychology & neurology a single human organism is more like a household of partially skilled individuals linked by an improvised & fragile fabric of co-operation than it is like an orchestra under a single maestro. If among the many things going on in someone at any time there is nothing that is pre-eminently central & identity-bearing then there is nothing that can be opposed to at a later time to confirm or refute questions of identity first the earlier person. Psychiatrists, like everyone else, tend to find what they are looking for. Bipolar Manic-depressive disorder in which phases of manic or hypomania alternate with depression; unipolar disorder which is marked only by depressions, grey & dreary, only by hypomania.

80. Peter Wright made a retraction ~~of~~ on *Panorama* in October 1988 of what he had allowed his ghost-writer to write in the book in regard to Harold Wilson!

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79 "Freedom of information" is not a simple ideal. There are several ways in which governance may be made more open. The most comprehensive ideal of open government — "government in the sunshine", as the Americans engagingly refer to it — requires that official agencies conduct their affairs as far as possible in public so that people can see for themselves what is going on. Is the nation secure when it becomes an armed camp in which no one knows what its security agencies are doing? Does that secure something worth defending? These questions are not self-answering. One upshot of the Spycatcher affair is that we know now for sure that dirty things get done in the dark. ~~=~~ Governments often conceal information for reasons of political advantage by pretending that it is a matter of national security. Nixon sounds like an old gramophone record. He stresses the altruistic motives of US policy & then, with hardly time for a change of gear, he insists that interest is a key condition for ~~the~~ US help of other countries.

Jane Ellen Harrison's pamphlet "Homo Sum" points out that "feminine" virtues are not "really to do with gender at all, but with subordination & servitude in either sex: patience, modesty & tact were expected of the governess, the tutor or the slave, but they were virtues "not specially characteristic of the average duchess."

TLS, Feb. 3-9, 1987

Martin Seymour-Smith's thesis in *Rudyard Kipling* is that Kipling

was a closet homosexual, though he has not discovered any real
Material. The children were boarded out with the Hallowayes, a Southsea
sea couple Rio had advertised in the paper. Kipling recalled: "I had
never heard of Hell, so I was introduced to it in all its terrors." His
memories of the "House of Desolation" rose to bite Rio when he could not let
it go. He recreated it in a short story ("Baa, Baa, Black Sheep"), a novel
(The Light That Failed) & in his autobiography (Something of Myself).
In Something of Myself, Kipling said that the Southsea episode was
not altogether unsuitable preparation for life "in that it demanded
constant vacuity, the habit of observation, & attendance on mood
& tempers, the noting of discrepancies between speech & action, & certain
reserve of demeanour, & automatic suspicion of sudden favours."
The incident in which a placard reading KIPLING THE LIAR
is pinned to his back may derive from David Copperfield, as Charles
Carrington points out. The "House of Desolation" legend is a complete
Victorian edification-kit, of the kind many writers carried (e.g. Thackeray
& Dickens). If it's unlikely, they suggest it? Once suggested, it will
have to stay suggested, despite the lack of evidence. The momentum
of speculation carries Seymour-Smith way past any concern for
probability. One unlikelihood spawns another, as a sentence
spawns parentheses. "Doing his marital duty to Carrie [Balestier], he
is not Redeemering (O shameful thought!) [her dead brother]
Wolcott [Balestier]".

The 1933 Supplement to the OED gives "the "dailiness" of life" (Mrs Meynell) & "the daily dailiness of her existence" (Arnold Bennett).

For the vast majority of Russians, Socialism is synonymous with oppression, & Democratic Socialism seems a contradiction in terms.

T.L.S, Feb. 10-16, 1989

Seldom has a man risen so spectacularly from public grace [a. Oliver North]. He will ride out of gaol on a white horse.

The Daily Mirror, unsurprisingly, within 24 hours, sees the Arts enterprise [The Third Programme] as a long-haired nonsense. John Reith, though long put out to grass as Director-General, managed to get his own individual slant into the Beveridge Report on Broadcasting a few years later ("a waste of precious wavelength... too limited in appeal"). Even in such a camp of the righteous as the New Statesman, distant echoes of the Third Programme can be heard in literary competitions, e.g. the entry: "11.0-11.15: Mr T. S. Eliot will meditate in the studio").

Giuseppe (Pino) Orioli's autobiographical Le avventure di un libraio was originally in English with the help of Norman Douglas. He was the 7th child of a shopkeeper well-known for his home-made sausages in a small town. When he was 14 he was apprenticed to a tailor in Florence. He saved a little money, & sailed for England. He tooled as a Market porter & even sang Neapolitan songs in the street. He started to give Italian lessons & thus got in touch with aesthete admirers & gay homosexuals. He never married, & the many English literati who became his close friends were almost exclusively homosexual. He says that D. H. Lawrence, whom he knew well but did not like, was a repressed homosexual. He is anxious to clear himself of the

accusation of having made excessive profits from Lady Chatterley. He can be exceedingly bitchy when thwarted. The Dean of an unnamed American University convinces a widow to give her precious collection of Savonarola tracts to his institution although Orioli is under the impression that he has all but purchased it from her. Soon after, the Dean is struck down by paralysis. "No obvious connection between the two facts, but I like to think that there may have been one."

Cut of Wilde's obscene experiences come poems like "Mental Cases" & "Anthem for Doomed Youth" with their satire of the old men — the governments — who send young men out to die. In Flanders, rats to make their nests in the corpses, Dada at Gallipoli, millions of flies feed off them. The War did not lie at the origin of Modernism. Some of the greatest Modernist works like Proust & Joyce had their roots in the pre-war world. Even Surrealism goes back to Alcools which Apollinaire published in 1913. The role of the War was to inject into Modernism a dose of pessimism & protest. The men in the trenches developed a sense of identification with their adversaries. Ungaretti made his peace with Mussolini & accepted a vision of artistic freedom in return for surrendering to Fascism. A Romanian Jew, Paul Celan's Sprachgitter (speech-grille, lattice-work) has long been identified as Paul Celan's pivotal statement — the self-revealing & self-closure of the word. Celan coined the adverb heideggänzerisch to characterize his own pace & procedure in certain poems. His annotations to Sein und Zeit etc are to be read line by line. He sought out Heidegger in his Mountain

for three, the celebrated Tattvaloka by Iyer. The result is a poem which bears that name, the object of commentary & explication. Only one thing absolutely clear: Heidegger did not answer. He may have walked with Celan on the upland & kept silent for those three days.

Mircea Eliade, Autobiography. Old men forget—especially the things which, as young men, they disliked. Early record: Eliade, the polymathic historian, was a young University lecturer at Bucharest in the 1930s, he was a disciple of the leading academic apologist for the Iron Guard. In 1940 he obtained a diplomatic post in London. When King Carol was superseded by the Pro-Nazi regime of General Antonescu, members of the Romanian embassy in London resigned their posts; Eliade did not, & was later transferred to Portugal, where he wrote an adulatory little biography of Salazar. Desperately resisting that an intellectual is "above politics", his account reeks of bad faith, special pleading & all-round obfuscation. His post-War academic life reads like an engagements diary: conferences & lecture-series are listed in succession.

One of the striking paradoxes of Nazi rule in Germany was that it was a dictatorship with, not against, the people.

TLS, Feb. 24 - March 2, 1989

[83] In none of its many varieties did Marxist thought anticipate (nor has it yet begun to explain) the most decisive development which occurred in Europe & its overseas offshoots. It was paralysed by the trauma of the First

World War, in which the proletarian classes of Europe exhibited national not class allegiances, & it accepted for a decade only by spreading into still-existing fantasy about the new Society & the new Humanity under construction in Russia. The Leninist Rev Communism in which a Lyotard makes attempts to operate an economy without market exchange may have cost as many lives as the later experiment in socialist & peasant collectivisation conducted by Stalin, nor lost for the Marxists. Marxist ~~detour~~ thought between the wars oscillated uncertainly between ruthless dogmatism & self-deceiving piety towards revolutionaries not compromised by collaboration in Stalinist terror, such as the intellectual & romantic Rosa Luxemburg & the stern & pitiless opportunist Trotsky. Marxist thought was utterly unprepared for the successive catastrophes & the destruction & social chaos, as in Europe, the Nazi-Soviet pact & the Holocaust. Equally the role & slave labour in the Gulag was repressed for a generation or more in Western Marxism. The American ~~intellectual~~ radical intelligentsia over the past decades has typically been preoccupied with the epiphenomena of the European culture-market, whose most grotesque mercifications have enjoyed in American academia a sort of stilted afterlife. The academic institutions of capitalist America will be the last redoubt of Marxist theorizing which it has long since been repudiated & unlearnable by the peoples & rulers of the States that were once commanded power. Martin Jay, Fin-de-Siècle Socialism & Other Essays: "the bizarre spectacle of autocratic rulers like Stalin, Tito & Mao holding on to power for life suggests, in fact, that Marxism is a far more likely Bolshevik for socialist politics in the 21st

century regimes than anything remotely desirable from the democratic tradition." Say omits any reference to Romania & North Korea, where the institution of communist autocracy promises to be hereditary—an even more delightful inversion of Marxist expectations. In his Against Interpretation, Sontag maintains the thesis that the radicalization of the intelligentsia is a response to a blockage in their upward social mobility rather than the expression of any commitment to critical reason. Bakunin claims that Marxism expresses the class interest of a nascent bureaucracy. In the U.S, a radical intelligentsia which perceives its social status to be lower than that of truckers & is substantially marginalized from the political process, has attempted to legitimate its interests & objectives by the adoption of an anti-market ideology.

185 Georges Vigarello, Concepts of Cleanliness. The 16-century body is a house, its pores are dangerously open windows. Porous bodies that waters can penetrate are less resistant to poisons, more easily invaded by illness. Baths & steam-baths, popular in the Middle Ages, would be abandoned in the 16th & 17th centuries as debilitating forms of self-indulgence. The marble bath Louis XIV installed at Versailles becomes a garden pool. Frictions, perfume & clean linen were far better "to cover the foul-like stench of armpits" Cleanliness bore remains an aspect of manners, not hygiene. Hands & faces may be washed, though they are often simply wiped with dry cloth or towel. Clean linen provides an appearance of cleanliness & proof of conspicuous consumption. By the end of the 16th century, shirts are changed almost daily in Court circles, which

does not prevent Henri VI from "stinking like carrion". Smells, abundant & agreeable in an unwashed age, when personal effluvia mingled with stinks from river & from street, were palliated by sweet-smelling flowers, or by sachets hidden in garb, armpits & between the legs. Baths make their return with the 18th Cent. Bathrooms & tubs, washrooms & bidets, make their appearance; hydrophobia turns to hydropathy. Warm water is still emollient, but cold water is touted as the, a panacea, hardening the body's fibers. Rousseau's Emile has, does his body by washing in ever colder water; Benjamin Franklin recommends "total" immersion. Once a matter of distinction, cleanliness in the 19th Cent. becomes a national concern — "public health." The garbage cans in Paris were introduced by the Prefect Poubelle. Pasteur's "Haine à la Prusse! Vengeance! Vengeance!" may have done much for his fame.

Successful working women all tend to study subjects for the journalist termed sociologist. They are extremely busy & refuse in-depth interviews in the few hours of the day that they might otherwise have spent with their families. They should they make time to share their hard-won insights with a young journalist, armed only with a tape-recorder.

194 In 1947 the National Security Act created a parallel government in order to conduct a never-ending war against Communism & Whatever it might be. Since the lion's share of the Federal budget goes to the Pentagon, CIA, NSC, foreign military aid, etc., the NSC is, in effect, the operative government. While the executive, legislative & judicial branches of the old republic are essentially a cosmetic

Richard R. Langdon and Mrs Nared away. Their writings are a denial of polytheism & Jacobbing i for the Saints

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government collection taken into the confidence of the VSC

TLS March 31 – April 6, 1989

The cant proclaims Maugham more an enigma than a problem: difficult to understand as a man, he can be read; he said to have created texts to test the exegete. He was shrewd, but he was rarely subtle. He announced Monday 1. be the 6th sex without which you could not enjoy the other 51. He entertained generously, if unexcitingly (tennis & bridge were staple sports) & exacted (dates of arrival & departure were always stipulated) far & away the most famous fifty years of his time, but the registration of those he knew & who called his "letters" was denied him. Edmund Wilson (whose work he had recommended to his publishers in America) was famously retrospective. Wilson, of course, craved success in the theatre which he never achieved. Alan Searle was Maugham's friend, lover & secretary for some 40 years. Maugham's character was blighted by a long dread of exposure & destruction of which Oscar Wilde's fate was the fatal paradigm. The regular bonfires which he & Searle lit at the Villa Cap Mauresque enhanced what they sought to conceal. Biographers are, however, attracted by their subjects' peril; doubt is not always beneficent. Willie never went so far that he could not come back. If his could fall for the Edwardo Bariando, he never fell for them. He omitted Gerald from his roster of lovers with at least as much perversity as Henry James who omitted Maugham from his TLS list of young authors to watch.

He had had enough of having taught it to Sackville by a junior

Gide made a virtue of outspokenness. Where Maugham affected reticence, & in his work hinted discreetly almost always, except homosexuality — one thinks of the passage on El Greco, in Don Fernando, did the mask crack, to drop — Gide harped endlessly on the subject.

In "Religion & Literature" (1935), T.S. Eliot denounced men of letters who "advocate the Bible as literature". The Bible "has made literary influence upon English literature not because it has been considered as literature, but because it has been considered as the Report of the Word of God". Gabriel Josipovici, The Book of God: "The Christian Bible leads to the end of time, to the fulfilment of time." The Hebrew Bible merely claims that there is a meaning in history; the New Testament claims to know what the meaning is. "It needs for the single story that will give shape to the world"

Newton was bitter, jealous, unforgiving & devious. Humphrey Newton (no relation), his sometime assistant, has left the only recorded instance of Newton laughing, when Pepys once asked him what use it was to study Euclid's Elements

a combination of impenetrable officialese & Mid-West hard-sell. Written by a man who hates writing.

Ronald Reagan made Tom Clancy's The Hunt for Red October the only novel to receive his public approval, in much the same way as John Kennedy's casual recommendation brought Ian Fleming a quasi-institutional status in America.

Arthur Schlesinger's advice to President Kennedy concerning the Bay of Pigs: "Men lies must be told. They should be told by subordinate

officials. If no point should the President be asked to lend himself to the cover operation. For this reason, the decree to be merely in Secretary Ryzk's suggestion that someone else, than the President make the final decision & do so in his absence — someone whose head can later be placed on the block if things go terribly wrong!

TLS, March 10-16, 1987

Sickness is a growth industry these days. The burgeoning of the medical industry already absorbs over 10 per cent of gross national product of the U.S. Now is the remorseless greying of Western societies, with the associated multiplication of the ailments characteristic of an increasingly geriatric social order. Susan Sontag's attempts to disarm our fears of petalism with verbal pyrotechnics of 1986. To contract AIDS was to court instant suspicion of being a promiscuous sodomite, & the victims of the disease thus found themselves transformed into the lepers of the modern age & derided as the carriers of a plague, the source of physical as well as moral pollution. In the hands of the New Right & its ~~evangelistic~~ televangelists, here was a heaven-sent opportunity to remind their flocks of the wages of sin. Nor did the spread of AIDS beyond the homosexual community necessarily lessen its stigmatizing potential since the most vulnerable population to its depredations were intravenous drug users, another deviant "community of pariahs." AIDS has become a powerful weapon in radical conservatives Kulturkampf against "liberalism" & the permissive society.

X "The Battle of Blenheim"
To meet the inevitable.

"But what good came of it at last?" The awkward question put by Southey's little Peterkin about Old Kaspar's "famous victory" sums up the perplexity that appalling haemorrhage of Europe's manhood in the First World War. In Germany professors' privilege of Lehrfreiheit proved to be amply compatible with irrational intellectual. In Britain, Bernard Bosanquet, Adolphus Ward, Alfred Marshall & T. E. Holland modestly kept their heads down till it was over & David Abuse & Obloquy by sticking to their dispassionate guns. The roll of dishonour on any count must include Raleigh, Conlon Davies, Tagore & Romel more or less familiar names.
The aversion & contempt which Acton came to have for Newman are a significant item in the historical materials of 19th-century Roman Catholicism in England.
244 Jacques Rupnik, The Other Europe. According to Adam Michnik, the Polish situation is one of the caricatures of a would-be totalitarian State with a society it can no longer control. The regime's relative tolerance is proof of weakness & disintegration: "Not socialism with a human face, but totalitarianism with broken teeth."
Pierre Broué, Trotsky. He was speedily edged out of his seat of power & was increasingly ineffectual. He was a brilliant orator, but his ideological blinkers led him to commit serious blunders. He interpreted Stalinism within the schema dont il était prisonnier. Broué does not find an extraordinary phrase in which Trotsky affirmed that the State, before

for Russians best Kept hidden.
We have the presence of the <u>Communist</u>, principally a fear factor back
A ~~to~~ Canon presupposes exclusions as well as inclusions — the Germanic Collectors
gathering away, is to become strong & More coercive "Just as a lamp
before extinguishing itself, flashes brighter." Party Rule & could hardly
take that Term "Turbocratic" Some, however, many speakers were
made denouncing Marxism-Leninism The Novelist Below indeed produced
that "Stalin was the chief Bolshevist!" It is important for some
Russians (Solzhenitsyn among them) to blame Non-Russians for
that evils. A Soviet scholar remarked ironically that, according
to some people, much that went wrong under Lenin was the fault of
Jews, under Stalin it was the fault of Georgians, & under
Brezhnev it must have been the fault of Dnepropetrovsk (his only
Jewish Minister)
O'Brien's conspiracy-of-silence theory that Yeats is a significant
part of the inspiration for the Provisional IRA but that his academic
followers are reluctant to admit.
The closing words of Samuel Beckett's "The End": "a story in the Unnamer
of my life, I mean without the courage to end or the strength to go on".

<u>London Review of Books</u>, 11 Jan. 1990

Anything one writes about Eastern Europe is likely to be half-an-hour &
therefore hopelessly out-of-date. All contending parties manifest their
Material interests as ideas
Barbara Skelton, <u>Weep no More</u> Quotes on p. 1 from Harriette Wilson
Who, like herself, was a <u>Demi-Mondaine</u>. Among the Many men in her
life, the three who got it into a serious muddle were all seriously ugly.
Cyril Connolly, her 1st husband; George Weidenfeld, her second; & Ke.

last recorded lover, the French writer Bernard Frank. There is no photograph of her husband, the millionaire Derek Jackson. She met him twice, to be shuffled off into his 6th marriage, leaving her both a farmhouse near Ascot & financial security for herself, her mother & her aunt. Wendenfeld urged her to finish over his brackets. Gatsby is not her line at all. Towards the end, self-pity creeps in. Still, all that sex must have been fun as well as funny. It's funny in a Feydeau way, by virtue of the quantity & speed of almost Boeing-Boeing-like lays.

Edward VIII's abdication was an unprecedented shock to a system founded upon precedent. While the American press speculated that the new king was "of poorer royal timber than has occupied England's throne in many decades", courtiers & royal-watchers held their breath to see if "Bertie" would pull it off. In fact, the responsibility thrust upon him brought out unsuspected qualities in George VI. The crisis exemplifies the risks inherent in a hereditary system: the institution is at the mercy of the calibre of the individuals whom the accident of primogeniture throws up to embody it. Physically ready & able by his stammer, he was rejected as a Naval cadet. He lived in the shadow of his glamorous & favoured elder brother. Though he dreaded the idea of becoming King, he knew what he had to do when the job was dumped on him & rose to the unwelcome challenge with genuine heroism. Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon is usually said to have been the making of him. As Duchess of York & later as Queen, Elizabeth cast "Bertie" as Bingo & boosted his self-confidence. He had to broadcast an appeal to Dad's Army after much rehearsal he remembered. In the Blitz he came into his own.

Jean Cocteau to avant-gardistes: "You must know just how far you can go too far."

Refusing to leave London & identify himself firmly with the National Mood by touring bomb sites. When Buckingham Palace was bombed Elizabeth was forced to see the public relations value, & ~~she~~ it, that now that she "could" "look the East End in the face". He was habituated them to shoot Commons & fair shares. It must be very doubtful whether he could have survived the cruel attentions of today's tv media walkpack. The illusory dead weight of an old century behind them, & before them the perhaps equally illusory promises of a new one. These ages of transition tend to breed avant-gardes to whom contempt for the past is a necessary condition of radical innovation. A cousin of Lionel Johnson, Olivia was married to the much older, & apparently very dull, Hope Shakespeare. Yeats met Olivia at a Yellow Book dinner in 1894. He was 29, she a couple of years older. Their affair terminated the poet's virginity. Yeats was still in the grip of his "first" "boyish passion" for Maud Gonne, who had little interest in sex & none at all in sex with Yeats. Yeats was very poor, & to bail the poet he undertook work for the Sort of London letters about Irish literature for the consumption of Irish subscribers to American newspapers. Maud, incidentally, lost her virginity to Ezra Pound, who had married Olivia's daughter Dorothy. In her last years Olivia was virtually the sole support of the Pounds, financing from her various investments Ezra's correspondence campaign against the evils of usury.

Tom ~~Faulkner~~ Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom! did not contain a single full stop — "the Non-Stop or Life Sentence" (Clifford Fadiman). Unpoet-

3 Lessing does not mention Judith Chernaik's The Daughter (1979), a touching study of Eleanor Marx & her tragic marriage.

fal & imaginative, Faulkner, & another of the Great Authors one is glad not to have known. Faulkner the real writer died 20 yrs before Faulkner the man — & the man knew it. He wrote from his early genius, & he felt by 1950 that he was reluctant to accept the Nobel Prize, which he felt had been awarded to an entirely different person.

Since Jane Gaskell made this call for the non-fiction novel in the late sixties, journalists have from time to time adopted the novel's form to tell a true story. Unfortunately it rarely works. No matter how much research the author does, the non-fiction novel can never live up to the "reality" of the novel. The author cannot, after all, know the thoughts of the people involved in the story, & often is forced to extrapolate what they were thinking, say, before the crime.

"The great divide", in Stan Parkes's phrase, separates the rich from the poor, white from black, those with tolerable food, cloth & shelter from the underclass guests at the Tabernacle Soup Kitchen. A permanent underclass discouraged from looking for jobs.

Dennis Lepper[16] Unwritten novels How about Marx's household? It was a commonplace of Victorian dramatic stereotypes: the illegitimate child by the servant, the put-aside wife, the mysterious & conspiratorial visitor, reprehensible relatives of the noble-minded philanthropic benefactor. And the exploited, suffering daughter. Here is Kapp's biography of Eleanor Marx's deplorable love-in-law appears in The Doctor's Dilemma, & apparently inspired Meredith's The Tragic Comedians.[3]

*论 James Legge 及王韬 载于 JRS, Nov 24-30, 1984

The Brownings' Correspondence, ed by Philip Kelley & Ronald Hudson, will contain 12000 letters in 46 volumes. The task is Mountainous. Vertiginous The 7th Vol. has now appeared. If is possible to find errors in the notes, if you go through the volumes with that mythical instrument beloved of illiterate politicians, the toothcomb. Elizabeth Barrett Browning's letters & her letters after her marriage, all said to have been returned unopened, may still exist in some secret drawer of some long bureau or writing-desk. Browning removed & destroyed large numbers of his own letters. Ironically one early letter has survived which lays bare the contortions of embarrassment with which he went about the business of partially compromising letters returned to him. The reference here is to Eliza Flower, to whom he was romantically attached in his boyhood. After a "those immense sheepish handwritings achieved by some persons," Elizabeth wrote to Browning: "Mr Landor for instance, who looks as if he had the style for a folio & dotted his i's in proportion."

Jonathan Spence, The Question of Ah Tai. John Tai, a man without guile & without luck, travelled to France from Canton in 1722 as the employee of Jean-François Foucquet, a Jesuit Missionary, but behaved in such a bizarre fashion that in 1723 he was committed to an asylum. In 1726 he was shipped back home alone. The basic method has remained fairly constant: get hold of some Chinese books; get hold of one or more Chinese to help read them.* The 16th-cent. Portuguese historian João de Barros boughy up two Chinese slaves with his printed sources, today, such scholars

to Joseph Needham & Lu Gwei-djen enjoy a full collaboration — though a large number of Chinese spouses of prominent "China experts" still don't get the credit they deserve. Fouquet had built up a large & well-organized research library on China. His hiring of John Hu, a gate-keeper at the Jesuit's Canton mission, was a last-minute expedient to counter his superiors, who were against his taking any Chinese to Europe. He was a widower & his ancestral province was Kiangsi. He assumed Fano to be his Shangpila, where he could take whatever he wanted for his own use without payment — "a paradise on earth." Relationships between the sexes in Europe came as a staggering surprise; the Hu beat a drum beneath a banner bearing the legend Wan-hu jen-pieh. As a Jesuit Fouquet was exceptionally disobedient, with a penchant, during the banquet, for eavesdropping. Fouquet thought that the earliest texts of Chinese civilization contain an ancient knowledge of Christian religion. His ideal China was as chimerical as Hu's ideal Europe. He required an academic Man Friday: he got obsequious, bewildered John Hu. He was kept in Rome to grow old full of opinions, but without influence. He was made Bishop of Eleutheropolis, "Freedom City," an appointment so notional that we cannot tell to what place it referred.

London Review of Books, 25 Jan. 1990.

3

In Beijing cyclists often cross at red lights: it is so hard to get spare parts for brakes that many bike riders prefer to take a calculated risk rather than stop. In Sao Paulo they motorize bicycle-rick-

ing

host failed to stop at red; he explained that it was more dangerous to stop because the driver behind him would certainly assume that he wasn't going to stop & the risk of being hit from behind if he did was considerable. In Chicago, there are many intersections where drivers in the outer lanes keep to the right against the red light. Know that if they stop they risk being held up at gun-point by robbers hanging around at the side of the road. Where a situation where everyone expects other people to drive against the lights. It is everyone's interest to do so. If others to drive against the lights. It is everyone's interest to do so. If others to drive against the lights. It is everyone's interest to do so. If others

owners. The Front's problem is that it has attracted too much support. Police chiefs & factory managers all over the country simply decided to be in favour of the new government & have stayed in place. The new rulers have slipped with great ease into the practice of ruling by decree.

The State of the Language: 1990 Edition, ed. C. Ricks & L. Michaels. How does a black border in English find an authentic voice? "Either you drop the epithet 'black' & think of yourself as a 'writer' & you become 'universal', i.e. address the narrow, self-serving parochialism of Europe or else you perish in the backwaters of small presses.... The pressure is to become a mulatto & house-nigger (Ariel) rather than a field-nigger (Caliban)" (David Dabydeen). Black language does actually exist, but "no one speaks, or has ever spoken, a distinctive, alternative female language. If it is to come into being, it must be an entirely fabricated, artificial writing" (Hermione Lee) – the "consciously Americanized version of *écriture féminine*". Nabokov: "People who denounce the sentimental one generally unaware of what sentiment is." No final paragraph arrives like a long-deposited orgasm. Museums turned into tourist traps.

Henry Adams called biographies of statesmen equated biography with stychnine. The Education has been read as a ruse to forestall unwelcome biographers. He loathed admirers to the point of mania. Only grudgingly did he concede it to the persevering Bernard Berenson a measured intimacy. This is a prejudice shared by other "impoverished Europeans" like Henry James, Edith Wharton, George Santayana, T. S. Eliot & Pound. J. J. Chapman: "Hey [Adams & his fellow dilettanti] could not help proving the rule to

success, though they did so with a sneer upon their lips: Henry James knew
nothing about "Woman", because "he never had a wife." W. D. Howells always
slipped up when he dealt with "Gentlemen & Ladies"
The New England Journal of Medicine demonstrates that there is no
pleasure without its pain: "Cyclist's Pudendum, Dog Walker's
Elbow, Dot Dyer's Nipple ..." (D. J. Enright, The Faber Book
of Fevers & Frets, 1989, p. 12.99).
The word had been abroad, a day or two before Beckett died, that he was
soon to. "Emotion anticipated in transfiguring."
London Review of Books, 8 Feb. 1990

5
The tributes to Raymond Williams were a matter of the Left giving a last, sad
cheer for one of its most versatile & prolific heroes. Williams was a figure
of considerable, almost a chronic wonder. As a working-class scholarship boy up
at Cambridge, he seems to have decided, like not a few Welshmen before
& after him, that the way to storm this alien citadel was to overwhelm it
with a tide of words & socialism. While maintaining a flow of publications
on other subjects, he decided that what his constituency party needed was
—Yes, you've guessed—a monthly journal. Which, predictably, he & his wife
edited (& which, just as predictably, soon got on the wrong side of Transport
House). The great drawback of this sort of headlong productivity
is that it doesn't leave much time to read other people. Great chunks
of his work turn up in his ~~works~~ books, e.g. his chapter "Britain in the
Sixties" originally printed as part of The Long Revolution (1961) forms part
of Towards 2000 (1979).

Williams's career, for all his radical Welsh working-class roots, embedded as it began, under the shadow of Oxbridge. Despite the claims made for him as a "socialist theorist of culture", most of his writings to date from a Cambridge library dominated by the arch-conservative figure of Leavis. He could not but be conscious of how embedded in the ruling-class world "high culture" was — a world from which he felt deeply alienated. And while he was willing to beat the tabloid culture of the working classes with unusual seriousness, he was deeply ~~deeply~~ repelled by its shallow I'm-all-right-Jack materialism. Bulged by adverbs, Williams emerged in the '60s as an intellectual hero of the New Left. His leadership role is still a potent reason in the fan-clubs on Williams. But he was not even a coherent theorist. He never actually spells out what socialism is for him; it's just stuff, in the great British tradition of woolliness, to be all about values & community & kindness: in a world, Christian socialism & brown bread. It's just cheer-leading, not truth-telling. There is an aside or two about "militant particularism" — which is Williams's greatly daring way of opposing Oblivedy, no names, no pack drill, to the Bade-Meinhof Revolutionaries who ripped the Left apart in the late 70s. A final anguished charge into a cul-de-sac. Jobs were ~~inherit~~ inherited more strictly even than in the peerage. The weight of the unions was concentrated on retaining in operation 19th-cent printing-presses & practices & in outlawing all the modern innovations which make publication cheap, easy & more democratically accessible.

Peter Washington, *Fraud: Literary Theory & the End of English*, "Radical

Literary Theory (RLT for short)" is the "irregular union" of deconstruction, Marxism & feminism. "Crude indoctrination in pseudo-technical jargon. Having borrowed all of the trappings of sceptical thought (warnings against failure to examine one's own assumptions, against unreflective belief in truth or in value-free judgments & knowledge that serves no interests in order to attack the opposition, RLT then abandons them & applies its own programme & values with an astonishing lack of caution or self-examination. Joseph Schumpeter: "Obviously we cannot say about those else is ideology; we alone stand on the rock of absolute truth." This leads to a curious muddle in which the oppression of women is announced as an objective fact in one sentence while the impossibility of objective judgments is denied in the next." Their obvious aim is to take over the academy & barricade themselves in a arcane systematized esoteric world with

When G. M. Young read Eminent Victorians he commented, "We're in for a bad time", & set about planning an act of vastation which appeared in 1934 as Early Victorian England: Portraits by an Age. Young aimed his specifically at Bloomsbury. More recently, Gertrude Himmelfarb in A Genealogy of Morals: From Clapham to Bloomsbury has aimed at the same target from a position of American neo-conservatism. John Clive; Not by Fact Alone. The Victorian resolutely refuses to behave in the way the think Victorians should: Swinburne read Plato under Jowett at Balliol, but he also read Sade with Monckton Milnes at Fryston Hall. A mis-

This is more a "literary history of France" than a "history of French literature"
More

jaded academic snobbery claimed that biography was anecdotal, narrative unanalytical; the study of overreaching constructs & impersonal forces reached for a power, history. "Servants talk about People; Gentlepolm discuss Trip." The prestigious Annales school rejected the élite study of leaders & thinkers & political events for more deep-seated psychic elements — soil, food, prices, population. The individual disappeared altogether; topography replaced biography. In the U.S. a growing clique of Cliometricians combined with highly numerate computer buffs gives rise to a school of Cliometrics. What cannot be counted no longer counts at all. The debacle of history, "always a patient & pliable victim," for a "flexible past." There is an understandable tendency to emphasise the inevitable & irreversible, to drain the past of alternative & neglect the room capacity for / in the present — "the retrospective interpretation." Real factors do not terminate, but branches proceed interminably & indistinctly without any promise of a satisfactory resolution or happy ending. Gibbon reflects upon the intrigues of the Byzantine court: "In a succession of some days, in a period of some hours, words have called down, the duration of a life & reign is contracted to a fleeting moment. The throne is ever beside the throne..." More literature has survived than the exemplary writings admitted to the canon. Paul de Man's intimidatory phrase about evaluation: "aberrant."

Recent attempts to dismiss Heidegger as "a Nazi philosopher" resemble the Nazis' attempt to dismiss Einstein's theory of relativity as "Jewish physics".

London Review of Books, 22 Feb 1960

For nearly a century, Labour MPs have been going to Parliament to change the world, but have ended up changing only themselves. Tony Benn is one. A young socialist's revolutionary determination is often toughened by being passed over for higher high office. But the higher the office Benn occupied, the more his eyes were opened to the horrors of capitalist society & to the impotence of socialists in high office to change it. So Neil Kinnock: "Not a substantial person. He is a media figure really."

Kurze Deutsche Grammatik für Ausländer by Gerhard Helbig & Joachim Buscha (Leipzig 1988). Work permeates life from the simplest sentences to the most involved. After work, self-improvement. "He fights for socialism as well as freedom"; "He behaves like a Marxist" etc. "Communism" becomes "socialism with a human face". The Soviets would collapse like a row of dominoes.

Peter Wright has alleged that the British Government tried to kill Colonel Nasser. The USA made frequent attempts to assassinate Castro. The Duke of Wellington even refused to allow the guns to fire at Napoleon during the Battle of Waterloo.

Ideological appropriation has ever been the lot of Coriolanus. Marxist & fascist readings have tugged at the play repeatedly. Both Charlotte Brontë's Shirley & George Eliot's Felix Holt have grasped it for their own purposes. Pesto yield only to reading & reading is a political & a partisan act. There can be no final "text" just as there isn't, in itself, "mean". It is we who mean, by it. This is Barthes

G. E. Moore said Thomas Reid learnt from him, praised him in his early work & then forgot his debt, while borrowing freely his ideas to Wittgenstein. Reid was incapable of the obscurity which inspires the love of commentators & feeds their industry. Reid's sportingly descriptions of Hume's views: "This Philosophy is like a hobby-horse, which a man in bad health may ride in his closet, without hurting his reputation; but if he should take him abroad with him to church, or to the exchange or to the playhouse, his heirs would immediately call a jury & seize his estate."

Literary Review Dec. 1989

An afternoon *The Lancaut* from 3.30 pm until 6.30 pm for those who can stand the pace. The cost of this outing is £16 per head, quite a stiff price. It may well be too late to buy the tickets. The affair may seem to belong to the self pity-mised Opportunities: "One dark Moor declined, one more foot path untrod, One More triumph for deserts, & sorrow for angels, One victory More to man, one more subject to God!" The Academy Club, short of some unexpected disaster, will open its doors on Dec. 12th. It is a Sophisticated club. It need not make a profit but ~~must~~ may not make a loss. The Club will be confidential. Nothing heard or seen in it may be communicated to the press under the pain of instant expulsion.

Harding was supposed to be reverse parts Negro. Other documentation creates a clogged, sticky medium which, like jam on an insect's legs, bounds Vidal's ironies. Senator Eugene Gore: "I tell you, if there was any race other than the human race, I'd be for it." The gullibility of Americans.

keep the biggest hurdle while we have still momentum

"Like so many inventors & news, Hearst himself was capable of believing anything!" "Where Europe had a murderous tendency to sink into barbarism, the United States had not yet achieved a civilization from which to fall." The Land of Liberty becomes the land of paranoid Red-Scares & Prohibition where "the only freedom that an American has is to conform". For politicians and film-stars alike, page 17 of Mistresses dug back the letters they were once foolish enough to send them seem to be activities as routine as brushing their teeth. Instead of passively reflecting society, movies should invent that which society would then passively reflect.

Hans Fallada's semi-autobiographical novel was written during a fortnight of the Autumn of 1944 in an asylum for the criminally insane where he was held pending charges for the attempted murder of his estranged wife.

In the Oxford drug case of 1986, Rosie Johnston professor to her friend Olivia Channon the heroin which, in a cocktail of other drugs & other drink, was to kill that sad young woman. Rosie was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment. She kept an illicit diary on strips of paper which she hid at time in her vagina. She was soon adept in the tactics of "Crotching", even accomodating an ounce pack of Golden Virginia on one occasion.

23 The first words uttered by ~~when~~ Yeats when he was told by the celebrated Irish Times editor, R. M. Smyllie, on the phone that the Nobel Prize was awarded was "How much?"

Tim

have my palm greased or my pass-buttered in this fashion

Sidney

28 The venerable Columbia philosopher Morgenbesser, also a credential-ed rabbi, was not known for his brevity. P. F. Strawson was once delivering a paper to a large audience of philosophers. He said: "In some languages, a double negative yields an affirmative; in others it yields a more emphatic negative. But in no language, natural or artificial, does a double affirmative yield a negative." "Yeah, yeah," piped up Morgenbesser from the back of the auditorium.

30 Shaw energetically denounced the stupidity of the marriage service, which requires that a couple, in the first throes of passionate love, "swear that they will remain in that abnormal & exhausting condition until death do them part ... though nobody expects them to do anything so impossible & so unwholesome."

Brian O'Nolan.

Flann O'Brien's masterpiece *At Swim-Two-Birds* was luckily spotted & lauded by Graham Greene at Longman's, who summarised it thus: "You have a book about a man called Trellis who is writing a book about certain characters who are turning the tables on Trellis by writing about him. O'Nolan had "deconstructed his own text long before deconstruction was ever heard of." Years of booze & fag caught up with him & he died a brave death on April Fools Day, 1966, his mouth & throat eaten away by cancer.

Literary Review, March 1990

It must be a devilish job for the Arts Council to decide which of the mountain of magazines deserves subsidy from the State. The *London Review of Books* has overtaken the *London Magazine* for front runner. The

The beautiful premises are under-frequented
In my capacity as an unpaid agony ~~aunt~~ & telephone counsellor
The Editor's useful standby cries "dense" "opaque" "ungrammatical"
After Verdict of Alice's Caucus Race "and all must have prizes. The greatest scandal continues to be the annual pageant of the Poetry Society, a worthless body which has consistently done little but harm to the cause it espouses.
The only other primate to attempt Monogamy is the gibbon; this fact might be better known. But when the gibbon's mate dies, the gibbon is likely to take up with son or daughter; it is not a very moral procedure.
[10] Positional goods are goods in limited supply, goods to which access is determined not by wealth alone but by position. Unlike washing machines, positional goods are the goods they've stopped making, such as time & space & Georgian houses. The jumped-up are the people who believe that Money makes them as good as anybody else. "It is the duty of people who can afford restaurants to be cheated a little".
A Page 3 girl's malaprop is one in Keith Waterhouse's Bimbo: "Me-lingering over a four-course lunch."
Robert Graves's eccentric performance of some cosmetic surgery on David Copperfield was published as The Real David Copperfield
It never occurred to her to be economical with the truth.
Nabokov: "Russian literature can't be read in translation."
Anecdotes that would cause one's hairs to stand on end like quills upon the fretful porcupine. The most objectionable thing about New York Subways is the noise level, which exceeds what is to be found in London or Paris. It is supposed to average around 105 decibels. One should avoid making inadvertent eye-contact with other subway passengers, some of whom violently

Resent any attempt to establish an "I-Thou" relationship. In the afterword to *Lolita*, Nabokov takes note of the literature of ideas, which, he says, "my style is topical trash coming in huge blocks of plaster that are carefully dismantled from age to age until somebody comes along with a hammer & takes a good crack at Balzac, at Gorki, at Hank."

Encounter, Jan-Feb. 1990

"And it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, & the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat..." The portentous event of the breaching of the Berlin Wall took place before the eyes of hundreds of thousands of Europeans, glued to their television screens. If the people shouted, it was Gorbachov who blew the trumpet. By his abandonment of the ecumenical claim of communism, the Soviet leader has given pledges of his sincerity. The U.S. & its allies are in the position of men who have pushed hard at the door & find it suddenly open before them. They are off-balance & have lost the diplomatic initiative. The economic burden of the Soviet Union's satellite states is transposed to the West. Men accustomed to move at tortoise pace find that history is up & running like a hare. And it is no comfort to be reassured by the fable that the tortoise is bound to catch up. Plato in *The Laws*, his last major work, still maintained that the type of society described in the *Republic*, with wives, children & all property held in common, was "the first & the best", doubted whether such a society existed or could exist unless it was peopled by "gods or children of gods". Accordingly, in the society designed in *The Laws*, he said there ac

* Nothing like this is found in the biographies of St Anthony by Athanasius, etc.

close to that of the Republic as is practically possible, private property, marriage & the family are reinstated (The Laws, 732e-739b-e). The ideology that divides humanity into the children of light & the children of darkness, & imposes on the former a duty to spread "the truth" across the world — if necessary, by force, hardly existed in pagan antiquity. It began with the Jewish sect of the Essenes, founded in the mid 2nd century B.C., much of whose principal communal library survives as "The Dead Sea Scrolls"; but the Essenes' holy texts appear to have been forgotten for ages. historia (inquiry, questions, & investigation) & parrêsia (liberty of expression, the right to "say anything"). It has long been a platitude that Modern Western culture comes from a triple root — Roman, Greek & Israelite. Now, one can hardly imagine two cultures more utterly disparate than those of the ancient Jews & the Romans. But in one sense they were at one, & at one with most other ancient societies. In both there is a case for claiming that the prime social value was that of obedience. Cf. the oath taken by every Athenian citizen on coming of age with its emphasis on "reasonably (eukphronôs) established laws". Neither magistrate nor laws could demand from the Athenian an unconditional obedience. Winston Churchill told the story of an illustrious Army, St Anthony the Hermit, who "was much condemned by the Fathers of the Church because he refused to do right when the Devil bade him to" (Into Battle, 1941, p. 29)*. Anaxagoras & Socrates were both prosecuted & condemned in Athens for religious unorthodoxy. Anaxagoras fled the country, Socrates stayed & drank hemlock. The two prosecutions were both in reality political

The cheesecake gingerbread has lost its guilt now that no bottle party or flesh is forbidden.

The prosecution of Anaxagoras was designed as an indirect attack on his friend Pericles. The true gravamen of the charge against Socrates was one that is never mentioned in the Apology of Plato, though Xenophon in his defence of Socrates's Memory devotes a dozen pages to it. A prosecutor in another case put it half a century later: "You put Socrates to death because he was known to have been the teacher of Critias" (Aeschines, Against Timarchus Sect. 173). Critias was the leader of short-lived oligarchic junta, known to later generations as the Thirty Tyrants, who in about a year had put to death, without trial or with a kangaroo trial, some 5% of the male adult citizenry of Athens.

Seen Westminster televised, one could hardly imagine that until November 1989 the cameras had been banned from the House of Commons, like newspaper reporters in Dr Johnson's day. Even at premium prices, & still more so in the burgeoning basement, it can be cheaper to watch a video cassette in warm, dry, quiet, hygienic comfort at home than to drive, park, stand in line, pay, wait, sit through advertisements, buy popcorn or hear it consumed, & inhale influenza viruses in even the latest Multiplex with quadrophonic sound. TV & video cassettes have are not the natural enemies of cinema film. Younger people, involved in courtship rituals, may see the movies as part of their courtship dance. The film festival has become a national status symbol. A globe-trotting critic, working hard, could with luck survive on free lunches alone. I'm not in that league. The hills are dotted with an acne of villas. Crowds appear as if from nowhere to goggle at supposed celebrities

53

George Watson: Raymond Williams, a large face, a figure somewhat shorter than the face implied, a velvety voice accentless. What I principally remember from our first encounter was Williams's glowing pride, as a young author, in the commercial success of Culture & Society 1780-1950 (1958) which, he explained to me, as a stranger, had enormously surprised his publisher though not him. "He is taking me to better restaurants for lunch now." At the age of 37 he was a famous man. The paradoxical mode was struck again & again: an open pride in capitalistic success & its consumer rewards, with much talk of brand-names & domestic comforts, & a deep hatred of capitalism itself & its cultural pretensions. By mid-career in Cambridge, he was to become the proud owner of two country houses — one near Cambridge, one in his native mid-Wales — the talk was much of hi-fi, wall-to-wall carpets, & colour TV. But the usual jibes about parlour-socialists never quite seemed to fit. He was so utterly open about his prosperity for one thing: about wanting it, & wanting more of it. He was less grand than his friend & rival E. P. Thompson. Thompson lived in a country manor; Williams, by contrast, was essentially bourgeois, & his talk was of shopping & gadgetry not of deep-pasts & walled gardens. Many socialist intellectuals have "made it" in the last 30 years & the story of the fat-cats of the Left might justify a volume & even a series. Williams's claim to working-class origins is an essential part of his self-image. Pervasive egotism was part of his inheritance from Leavis. The Leavisite talk of closely defended civilized values. Even the most secular age can need its saints, & self-canonization can fill a need. Modern Tragedy (1966), laid out as it is like literary

Drawing a cart & brandishing a stick.

history, begins with a fuller though obscure account of the author's early life: the suffering of his (unemployed) parents in a Welsh village. His first novel, & his best, Border Country (1960), is similarly autobiographical. There is no Death of the Author here. A Williams book is always a book about Williams. Cultural history is extended autobiography. A boy to succeed, should look as if he is storming against the tide even as he storms with it. & that Prof. Williams eminently did. Though a professor of drama — the only one Cambridge has ever had — he enjoyed & fulfilled a non-experimental part but cordially disliked theatre. He seldom if ever read a student's essay, delegating teaching chores to others. Like so many of the first generation who taught English at universities before him, he was a professor not by a dollar. Lacks disrupted editing (or was it bibliography) as "the higher nannying"; C. S. Lewis was famous for remarking "When will you understand that I am not a scholar but merely a learned man?"

E. P. Thompson in a classic distinction won inspired self-righteousness working out in convenient development. Writing in New Statesman & Society 26 Jan. 1990: "... 'Socialism' has not been discredited, although command economy communism is." Politicians can to some extent learn from experience, but an ideologue holds opinions which cannot be rationally modified. In a history of the Partito Popolare, forerunner of Christian Democracy, the author solemnly wrote the following sentence: "Poiché il programma è stato realizzato, almeno in teoria." An honest translation might have been: "Nothing was done."

* According to the Jansenist grammarians of Port-Royal, the sacramental eating of Christ's body is performed through the formula of the sentence "This is my body". Cf. Louis Marin, La Parole Mangée

In the French legal system, it is still illegal to practice certain professions unless you have bought the right to do so. You can only become a notary by buying or inheriting the office of another notary. The same rule holds true for the chief clerks & bailiffs of some courts. The chief clerk of the Paris busy Commercial Court, Maître Reynaud, runs his profitable office as a virtual corporation, with 343 employees who work for him, not for the state — all by virtue of having inherited the office from the latter. Any one who cares to look up "Cannibalism" in Diderot's Encyclopédie will find a snarky note at the end reading: "See also 'Holy Communion'!" *

Alexander Cockburn & Christopher Hitchens are both in American exile, where they bite the hand. Their own aggression makes them vulnerable. To criticize them as salon socialists misses the point. The truth is that any journalist of the Left is in an awkward & false position when he writes for the bourgeois press. He looks like having it both ways. Cockburn writes radical polemics — & publishes them in the Wall Street Journal. If the editor thought that Cockburn's pieces represented a serious threat to capitalism, he wouldn't publish them. Mr Cockburn, a militant anti-Zionist, received a grant of $10,000 from the Institute of Arab Studies to write about the Levant which he never even began. When the transaction became public, he was "suspended indefinitely" from The Village Voice in the Spring of 1984.

Edmund Gosse's father was a Christian fundamentalist of a peculiarly dogmatic kind, a Plymouth Brother, but he was also an able magazine

Biologist Faith & Scripture taught him the date of the Creation; it was predated (observation & reason told him) by the fossils he examined. His reconciliation of the two was ingenious: the fossils had been placed there by the Creator to lure fallen Mortals into scepticism — a deliberate trap. Perhaps Marx predicted the continuing immiseration of the proletariat, and clung inexorably to socialist revolution, in order to test the faith of his followers. The Leftist wonders resemble early Victorian anthropologists who were not ready to commune with natives by sleeping in straw huts.

1431

TLS, Dec. 29, 1989 – Jan. 4, 1990

Peter Laslett's *The World We Have Lost* (1965) changed the way we saw the World of the past. His *A Fresh Map of Life* is likely to change our view of the present & the future. People have long talked in Biblical about about the normal span being threescore years & ten, but it is only now that a majority begin to get somewhere near to that kind of age. In advanced societies few children or teenagers die, & few adults die between their twenties & fifties. Death now comes to most people in their sixties, seventies or later. Morbidity, as Laslett puts it, has been compressed into a shorter span in the past. The consequences are far-reaching. There are not "old people" in the traditional sense: most of them are reasonably healthy, well able both to enjoy their extended years of life & to contribute to society. They are members of the expanding Third Age. The term comes from France, where "Les Universités du Troisième Âge" were launched in the 1970s. The

Make the University respond to "consumer" & produce more person-oriented graduates with a conventionally "relevant" skills; convert universities, elder-class-dropout heads of departments into managers, priests & scholars, if at all, only second.

Third Age is in fact the penultimate one in the French model of human life. The First Age is the period of immaturity, dependency & education. The Second Age is "an era of independence, maturity & responsibility", & the Third "an era of personal fulfilment". The Fourth & final stage is one of "decline & decrepitude" — one which we all hope will come to us as late as possible & be brief. The boundaries between the Third Age & the Second cannot always be drawn easily (nor for that matter can that between the Third & Fourth Ages) for one's inclination to personal fulfilment, once it gets into the absurdity of saying that those who have lived & fulfilled can be members of the Third Age while still the Second, & that some athletes (because they are at the peak of their achievement) may be in their Third Age while still actually in their First. It makes better sense to look on the Second Age as the productive one, when most people are in the labour force, & the Third Age as beginning when they leave the labour force. The Third Age is not necessarily one of personal fulfilment. For some of those who now face an additional decade or so of active life outside the labour force, it may be more like a life sentence than a phase of unalloyed joy. The growing flexibility about retirement is associated with high unemployment. A marked fall in the average age of retirement: more & more people are leaving work, or at least full-time work, at 60, 55 or even 50. The other major cause has been the coming of age — or the entry into the Third Age — of the first sizeable depression generation. The Third Age contains people in their fifties, sixties & early seventies, most of whom are able to provide care for Fourth Age relatives. "The family, in the sense of a network of kin connections, is perpetually alternating, getting together in the sideway,

The Tigers of Wrath are not necessarily wiser than the horses of instruction.
This collection of his essay pieces is an exercise in barrel-scraping.

spread but at the same time elongating over the generation."
Activity was to be almost Florence Nightingale's only physical activity between the end of the war in 1856 & his death, aged 93 in 1910. Retreating to her bedroom, she communicated with family, colleagues & the world at large by means of the written word. Her paranoia & calumnies have misrepresented many of her contemporaries to posterity. She was constantly denouncing women in general, beginning with her mother & sister, for their failing to give her the help she required. Sidney Herbert & Benjamin Jowett were the only sympathizers who dared to debate her for her lapses from Christian hope & charity. Like her friend & fellow-sanitarian Edwin Chadwick, she refused to abandon the "contagion" theory of the spread of disease, & denied the existence of micro-organisms & the need for antiseptic & aseptic procedures.
Wendy Arnold's reading was not especially inspirational, his interest in games almost non-existent, his relations with the boys inspired awe rather, from affection. The curriculum remained firmly classical. The headmaster of Shrewsbury, Moss, once gave 88 strokes of the cane to one of his pupils, a matter which reached the ears of Parliament & the page of Punch.
Keith Waterhouse, On Newspaper Style is a revised, expanded, updated version of Daily Mirror Style (1981). The book centres on the mass-circulation press, or tabloids. The expectation of short, hard words ("cop, probe, bid, swoop, axe") he makes a healthy distinction. An incestuous idiolect, spoken by no one but writers by many. It is a communicable disease which can result in brain-rot.
1437
Thomas Reid made a clear distinction between sensation & perception, which had not been made before & has not always been acknowledged since.

Reid insists that, in contrast with sensation, perception involves a conception of the object perceived, & a belief in its existence — a belief moreover which is immediate & not the result of any reasoning. What is rejected here is any thesis to the effect that in perception we are immediately confronted with a mental item, an impression, which functions as a representation. It is Hume's belief in such impressions as the immediate objects of consciousness which, in Reid's view, led him to paradoxical conclusion. Sensation is an act of mind which "hath no object distinct from the act itself". In perception the object is independent of the object. Reid takes pain as the paradigm case of sensation. The more which the mind makes from the sensation to the perceived quality is not an inferential one

(1970)

J. Hillis Miller's Distance & Desire elucidated Hardy's perspectivism & presented a novelist "enjoying the delicate peeping-Tom pleasure of seeing without being seen". Howard Jacobson's "Peeping Tom (1984) expounded Hardy's eroticism with Victorian relish.

TLS, Jan. 5-11, 1990

E. H. Miller, Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself": A Mosaic of Interpretations

A running commentary on the work, line by line & passage by passage, summarizing & quoting from critics of the past 130 yrs. In a moving passage Whitman speaks for the inarticulate & the unheard, for the "deformed, trivial, flat, foolish, despised, / Fog in the air, beetles rolling balls of dung" — that is, for those who lack even self-definition & for the lowest of the low. "Song of Myself," sect 28: "Is this then a touch?" — so masturbation conducts the human soul to God! One thinks of J. V. Cunningham's "History of Ideas": "God is love. Then

by conversion / love is God, & sex conversion." Unclassified sexuality gave way to sexuality classified by phrenological terms — adhesiveness, the over hetero-sexuality of "Calamus", & amativeness, the more abstract heterosexuality of "Children of Adam." "Unscrew the locks from the doors! / Unscrew the doors themselves from their jambs!" is an extraordinary utterance for 1855, & it was still fresh enough in 1955 for Allen Ginsberg to use it as an epigraph for Howl & Other Poems.

Irvin Ehrenpreis had evidently formulated a reviewer's code for himself, "one tenet" of which, according to Daniel Albright, was "always hold something back", on the theory that the reviewee or the reviewee's champions complain, ammunition for rebuttal should be in ready supply. Weep No More is the continuation of Barbara Skelton's first volume of kiss 'n' tell memoirs, Tears Before Bedtime. "You certainly owe a sex-bot a year-day," Cyril Connolly remarked to her, as he rummaged through a large basket of love-letters in her bedroom, years after their marriage had ended. When her flat was being decorated, the painter put his arm around her waist. "It was not for love that I married Professor Derek Jackson", the physicist & multi-millionaire, then 4 times divorced. It was more to do with the permanent suite at the Ritz, the square-cut emeralds from Van Cleef, & the Boyer-Gal farmhouse that became her permanent home when Jackson found Katherine Pakenham & moved on to wife number six. For the next 16 years or so the French novelist Bernard Frank involved Skelton in another, equally lively triangle, with Françoise Sagan.

the massaging of the national ego. the cross-cream off the surplus-value produced by the workers

Chekhov: "Artists & writers should engage themselves in politics only enough to protect themselves from politics."

In one picture rating 20th-century communities Aleister Crowley's Abbey of Do What Thou Wilt at Cefalù in Sicily seems likely to receive the most sexually demanding. Cefalù was one long orgy. Lust was the whole point of it. Sexual "Magick" was Crowley's way to truth, so much so that he would cry out at the point of orgasm "For the establishment of the law of Thelema!" The aged Crowley retired in a boarding-house in Hastings. Sometimes people still came to him for his Elixir of Life pills compounded of (unspecified) vaginal secretions combined of course with his own semen.

In Rupert Godden's memoirs A House with Four Rooms, discretion sometimes pulls the punch line of a good anecdote. Dutifully replying to an American fan she ignores the standard request for a photograph, as postage is too expensive. A second letter duly arrives: "Thanks for your autograph. We have had your hand-writing analysed. You are mean, petty, self-ish & greedy." Another time her house is invaded by a coachload of American ladies, shepherded by a correspondent of Miss Godden, who—unbeknown to her—runs a money-spinning cultural tour called Meet the Famous in Their Own Homes. She does not throw them out, but offers them tea. Best seller-dom, you see, has its responsibilities. Those were the days.

TLS, Jan. 12-18, 1990

Vertical class divisions vs horizontal integration. Ethnic, religious, cultural, gender & generational divisions & antagonisms outlive any reform of property system.

Angela Carter argues that pornographers such as Sade constitute women's allies in that their work diagnoses & reveals male political dominance

as a system of tyrannical sexual relations in a settled society.

34 John Carey: English writers & intellectuals in the first half of the century have attacked by what was for them the new phenomenon of mass culture. The classic account of this was José Ortega y Gasset's La rebelión de las masas. 8 From 1800 to 1914 the population of Europe rose from 180 to 480 million. "Europe has produced a gigantic mass of humanity which, launched like a torrent over the historic area, has inundated it." H. G. Wells, of a very different political stripe from Ortega, also refers to "the extravagant swarm of new births" as "the splendid disaster of the 19th century." In Ortega's analysis, population increase has had various consequences. First, overcrowding. Secondly, inversion: the crowd has taken possession of places which were created by civilization for the minority, the best people. A third consequence is the dictatorship of the masses, the accession of the masses to complete social power. "Hyperdemocracy", the gravest danger threatening civilisation, kills (suck the ~~true~~ individual. Ortega's ideas recall those of Nietzsche in Also Sprach Zarathustra. In The Will to Power the message is that "A declaration of war on the masses by higher men is needed ... Everywhere the mediocre are combining to make themselves masters." Mass culture generated Nietzsche in opposition to itself, as its antagonist. His view of the mass was shared by most of the propounders of modern European culture, e.g. Ibsen in The Enemy of the People (1882). Flaubert wrote in 1871 — a decade before Nietzsche published Also Sprach Zarathustra: "I believe that the mob, the mass, the herd will always be detestable." Knut Hamsun's Hunger (1890) was a seminal Modernist text. Thomas Mann, Hermann Hesse & Gide all record

their debt to Hamann, & Isaac Bashevis Singer has called him "quite simply the father of the modern school of literature." Hamann's Nietzschean view of the mass is epitomized in a speech by his character Ivar Kareno, hero of the Kareno trilogy: "I believe in the born leaders, the natural despots, the masters... I hope for one thing, & that is the return of the great tyrannos..." He eventually found his hope embodied in Hitler. A week after Hitler's suicide he published an obituary in which he celebrates the Führer as "a liberator for Mankind & a prophet of the gospel of justice for all nations." In England, the legislation of the last decades of the 19th Cent. introduced universal elementary education. The difference between the 19th-cent. mob & the 20th-cent. mass is literacy. When his novel Immaturity was turned down by every London publisher, Shaw realized that "The Education Act [1870] was producing readers who had never before bought books, nor could have read them if they had." Publishers were finding that people wanted not George Eliot or the "exceedingly literary" Bernard Shaw, but stories like Treasure Island & Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde. In the situation, Shaw recounts, "I, as a belated intellectual, vendor under completely." He then made a conscious decision to cater for the millions. Newspapers, he decided, were "fearfully mischievous" but indispensable. The pioneer to cater for the mass reading public was Alfred Harmsworth, later Lord Northcliffe. In 1896 he launched the Daily Mail. The principle was "this new journalism, Harmsworth said, was giving the public what it wants. To intellectuals, this sounded ominous. Intellectuals believe in giving the public what intellectuals want. This is what an intellectual means by education. The popular newspaper

*Carey might have quoted Kierkegaard in this connexion (& à propos of Gustav Freytag, Die Journalisten; Sir William Jaffray, Carlyle, Ibsen. Scott etc.)

created an alternative culture which by-passed the intellectual & made him redundant. In an important sense, too, it took over the function of providing the public with fiction, thus dispensing with the need for novelists. The emergence of "the human-interest story". In the Daily Mail, & its rival, Beaverbrook's Daily Express, the conception of "News" was deliberately extended beyond the traditional areas of business & politics, to embrace stories of everyday life of ordinary people. "What are human-interest stories for?" observed Helen Macgill Hughes in her pioneering study News & the Human Interest Story, will have essentially the same answer as "What are novels for?" Strong European intellectual hostility to newspapers was widespread. The rabble "vomit their bile, & call it a newspaper", declared Nietzsche. "We feel contemptuous of every kind of culture that is compatible with reading, not to speak of writing for, newspapers!" * Surveying the cultural scene in the Criterion in 1938, T.S. Eliot maintained that the effect of daily & Sunday newspapers was to "affirm [their readers] as a complacent, prejudiced & unthinking Mass". The cultural critic F.R. Leavis conducted an extended campaign against newspapers & the linked evil of advertising, in the pages of Scrutiny. One respectable aspect of popular newspapers was that they encouraged women. In the Nietzschean tradition the emancipation of women was a sign of modern shallowness. As D.L. Le Mahieu has recently shown in A Culture for Democracy, popular journalism — e.g. Northcliffe's insistence on a women's column in the Daily Mail — became a channel for uneasiness & self-reliance among women. This contempt among intellectuals for newspapers

~~Has not shared by the~~ great fictional intellectual of the period, Sherlock Holmes, in Doom, Conan Doyle created a comforting version of the intellectual for mass consumption. Newspapers are one of Holmes's great enthusiasms, & are Major Molestee in his battle against evil. The Mind of England, on two sides of a gulf, is taken by F. R. Leavis in his first work, Mass Civilization & Minority Culture (1930). To "highbrows", both across the gulf, it seems that the masses are not merely degraded & bestial, but also not fully alive. A common allegation is that they lack souls.[44] In The Waste Land, Eliot associates the Crowds of City workers who swarm across London Bridge with the dead in Dante's Inferno: "I had not thought death had undone so many." Of Nietzsche's claim that what is called life in the modern State is really slow suicide. The idea that mass existence cannot properly be called life had a strong appeal for D. H. Lawrence, & his inherent superiority to representatives of mass humanity, especially non-White mass-humanity, struck him forcibly "[s]pecially more vivid in me, than in the Mexican who drives the wagon". In Kangaroo, a character: "The mass of mankind is soulless... Most people are dead..." If most people are dead already, then their elimination becomes easier to contemplate. The end of mankind has evident imaginative allure for him & for his leading character. "I like to think of the world going pop." He composed in Mornings in Mexico. He accepts, in Fantasia of the Unconscious, that all certain historical periods "men must fall into death in millions", & regards this as no more dreadful than the fall of leaves in autumn." "Three cheers for the inventors of poison gas." Nietzsche pronounced that "the great Majority of men have no right to existence", & deplored the corruption of the European soul on the observation

sick & suffering specimens. The breeding of the future master-race will entail "the annihilation of millions of failures." In a letter of 1908, Lawrence explains to Blanche Jennings: "If I had my way, I would build a lethal chamber as big as the Crystal Palace, with a military band playing softly, & a cinematograph working brightly; then I'd go out in the back streets & main streets & bring them in, all the sick, the halt, & the maimed; I would lead them gently, & they would smile me weary thanks; & the band would softly bubble out the 'Hallelujah Chorus!'" Writing to Forster in 1916, Lawrence said: "I think it would be good to die, because death would be a clean land with no people in it; not even the people of myself." The term eugenics was coined by Francis Galton in the 1883, & the Eugenics Society, founded in 1926, hoped that by the sterilization of inferior breeds, & by offering incentives to superior people to propagate, the danger of degeneration inherent in the mass might be avoided. Both W. B. Yeats & Aldous Huxley joined this Society. T. S. Eliot's line in "Gerontion" about the Jew who was "Spawned in some estaminet of Antwerp" suggests a belief in the importance of good breeding which would have been widely understood in eugenic circles. As in so much else, Nietzsche was the trend-setter in this area. In the Will to Power, he asks that society ought to prevent procreation by the most rigorous means including, if necessary, castration. Less drastic, but more practical, was the suggestion that the mass should be prevented from learning to read. Nietzsche opposes universal education. "Let all schools," Lawrence proclaims, "be closed at once!" Instead education of the masses will, Lawrence hopes, collapse into purely physical life. Eliot repeatedly regrets the spread of education. The intellectual position

Strachin himself contrasts markedly with his actual conduct. In 1916, while he was reading Nietzsche, he was also teaching a literature class, made up chiefly of women elementary schoolteachers, under the auspices of London University's Committee for the Higher Education of Working People. "Universal education", jeered Aldous Huxley in 1931, 1934, "has created an immense class of what I may call The New Stupid." [45] Geoffrey Grigson founded New Verse in 1933 [46] explicitly as a reaction against mass values. New Verse was to be more rebarbative to the mass. According to the theory of the avant-garde the mass is, in art & literature, always wrong. What is truly meritorious in art is seen as the prerogative of a minority, the intellectuals, & the significance of this minority is reckoned to be directly proportionate to its ability to outrage & puzzle the mass. Though it usually purports to be progressive, the avant-garde is in fact always reactionary. The effort of the mass to acquire culture is presented as ill-advised & unsuccessful. E. M. Forster, for example in his novel Howards End depicts a lower-class young man called Leonard Bast, who works as a clerk in an insurance office. Leonard lives in a nasty modern flat, eats tinned food, & cohabits with a vulgar young ~~no~~ woman who is "bestially stupid." But Leonard desperately wants to become cultured, & to this end he reads the English classics & goes to symphony concerts. He has, however a "cramped little mind". [47] He was not as courteous as the average rich man, nor as intelligent, nor as healthy, nor as lovable". The novel has a cautionary ending, for Leonard's wish to obtain culture proves fatal. Attacked by one of the upper-class characters, he symbolically grabs at a bookcase for support, & it falls over on top of him, so he dies of a heart-attack. Even more unsympathetic is Virginia Woolf's

depiction of Doris Kilman in Mrs Dalloway. Miss Kilman is employed by the wealthy Dalloways to tutor their daughter. Though she is poor, Miss Kilman is independent & has gained a degree in history. She is in other words just the sort of woman Virginia Woolf as a campaigning feminist, might be expected to champion. But the social prejudices of an upper-middle-class intellectual prove stronger than feminism & Miss Kilman is depicted as a monster of spite, envy & unsatisfied desire. Leopold Bloom in Ulysses is not cultured. The only book we see him buying is called Sweets of Sin. His interest in a statue of Venus is the rudimentary one of examining its private parts. We encounter him seated on his outdoor privy reading the popular newspaper Tit-Bits. His job is canvassing advertisements for newspapers like the Evening Telegraph. Joyce pointedly embroils Bloom in newsprint & advertising. Yet Bloom is not treated dismissively. By the end of the novel, we know him more thoroughly than any character in fiction has ever been known before. We know his secrets, his intimate memories, his erotic fancies. We watch him performing bodily functions of a kind strictly excluded from fiction hitherto. We know his height, his weight & the date on which he last had intercourse with his wife. Can it be said, then, that in Ulysses Mass man is redeemed? Well yes, in a way. One aspect of Ulysses is to show that Mass man matters, that he has an inner life as complex as an intellectual's. And yet it is also true that Bloom himself would never & could never have read Ulysses or a book like Ulysses. More than almost any other 20th-century novel, Ulysses, with its complexity & obscurity, its avant-garde technique is for intellectuals only. There is a duplicity in Joyce's masterpiece. Mass man—Bloom—is expelled from the circle of intelligentsia who are invited to contemplate

him in a fetishal Manifestation. He cannot see the mass. Crowds can be seen, but the mass is a metaphor for the crowd in its metaphysical aspect — the sum of all possible crowds. The mass can acquire definition only through the imposition of imagined attributes. Besides the mass-opera, a curious decadent attribute is tinned food. Leonard Bast eats tinned food. Knut Hamsun waged intermittent war in his novels against tinned food, false teeth, etc. Eliot's typist in The Waste Land "lays out food in tins". John Betjeman deplores the appetite of the masses for "tinned fruit, tinned meat, tinned milk, tinned beans". Tinned salmon is repeatedly a feature of lower-class cuisine in Graham Greene. Orwell, in The Road to Wigan Pier, says that the First World War could never have happened if tinned food had not been invented; he blames tinned food for destroying the health of the British people. Insignificant was the work of the unintellectual writer, Jerome K. Jerome, tinned food should become jovial & amusing: a comic scene in Three Men in a Boat is constructed around a tin of pineapple. Tinned food becomes a mass symbol because of its homogenized mass product: it is an offence against the sacredness of individuality; it is mechanical, soulless & can therefore be allowed into a world of sacrilege & doom. When Andy Warhol filled the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles with paintings of Campbell's Soup tins in 1962, his controversial impact depended on the intrusion into high art of a mass icon which early 20th-century intellectuals had successfully overlooked.

In the beginning was Freudian Man & he was the norm, the complete human being. In his shadow limped the castrated female whose sexuality was problematic & whose whole development was an attempt to compensate for her lack of that vital organ which made a man complete.

TLS, Jan. 19-25, 1990

When, in The Common Reader, Virginia Woolf said of the "Vindications" of The Rights of Men & The Rights of Women that they felt like books "so true that they seem not to contain much 'next in them'," it was more a skilful dismissal than an accurate statement of the case. Mary Wollstonecraft's advances in moral thinking, like John Mill's, still have the power to shock position-takers of every party. She believed that the standard of morality of men & women cut across all specifications of gender. There ought to be "one criterion of morals" for men & women alike. She could be presumptuous & vain, & loved to take over people's lives. But she had the nerve to live alone in Paris in the early 1790s. Her View of the French Revolution & the "Letter on the Present Character of the French Nation" have outlived party literature. Gilbert Imlay, the American radical & commercial entrepreneur, seems to have been the sort of attractive & pliable character on whom no lasting impression can ever be made. She turned against the copious sentimental literature of the age, which inculcated a belief that women are not answerable for private virtue alone. A Vindication of the Rights of Men was the first major response to Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France. Though inchoate in her eighteenth-century arguments, she showed both great acuteness how the feminine virtues of sentimental morality had been imposed by Burke to the advocacy. His rhapsody on the Queen of France was an absolute test of the argument from beauty & instinct on which Burke took his stand as a defender of the old order. Like women, the aristocracy was understood at once to require defence & to solicit compassion. "Sensibility is the manic

his sick & poor-cutting castle. to rule by personal decree

of the day & compassion the prefix which is to cover a multitude of vices, while justice is left to mourn in silence, & patience hath in vain." Tom Paine's Rights of Man came out 3 months later. She pities the plumage, yet does not forget the dying bird: "Were an gothic notion of beauty — the ivy is beautiful, and, when it insidiously destroys the trunk from which it receives support, who would not grub it up?" The change of regimes has only "left the dregs of the old system to corrupt the new." The Crucial Chapters of the Rights of Woman is thoroughly anti-Rousseauist. "It is a farce to call any being virtuous whose virtues do not result from the exercise of its own reason. This was Rousseau's opinion respecting men: I extend it to women." She attacks the idea that the heroic virtues are another name for male vice. The reparable feminine virtues of modesty & propriety actually cause more harm than good to society as a whole.

With some pain, as we advance into old age, deafness is partly volitional, a defence against the importunate & the boring. The final chapter of Dr Oliver Sacks's Seeing Voices is about Gallaudet University in the United States. "Gallaudet is the only liberal arts college for the deaf in the world." It has existed for 124 years, but it never had a deaf president until, in 1988, the students clamoured for one & marched on the White House.

The persistence that people have shown in pursuit of altered states of consciousness is truly remarkable, & this desire can be seen, not as an intrinsic part of human condition. Our knowledge of drugs & drug problems has advanced with the discovery of the opiate receptors in specific areas of the brain.

John Morley, On Compromise: "Many people in our time have so ill understood the doctrine of liberty, that in some of the most active circles in society to-day could you a thief if you hold any proposition to be decidedly & unmistakably more true than another".

Heroin & morphine fit into such receptors on the surface of certain nerve cells as a key fits into the ignition switch of a car, thus turning on the engine of the cell. So does the brain itself provide chemicals which act the same way as the opiate drugs. Research led to the identification & isolation of the endorphins (from endogenous or naturally occurring morphine).

Opposition in Romania had to operate on an individual level; it could work better among the intellectual élite for the simple reason that only this élite could keep in touch with Western embassies & journalists. One had to be well known in order to survive as a dissident. Dissent did not succeed, just disappeared. Gorbachev visiting Bucharest in 1987 reportedly said of the Boulevard of the Victory of Socialism: "Impressive, but it does not impress me". Tunnels beneath the city speeding out from the Palace of the Republic. Every town has its peculiar local produces of pollution. Ceauşescu's rebuilding of the cities added the dust of demolitions & the cocktail of industrial fumes. Ceauşescu became a victim of Gorbachev's perestroika & glasnost. He was no longer needed as a thorn in the flesh of the Soviet Union, as a broker between East & West.

Diplomacy (efforts to seek guarantees, conclude alliances, bluster, hedge, equivocate) fought less & less time. It mattered only as long as real power forbore from its power, & not at all when, like Russia & Germany, they determined to use force. Crayfish in a basket are at the shopper's mercy with few alternatives between boiling water & death from dehydration.

*K. L. Reinhold taught at Jena "Philosophie ohne Beinamen", i.e. philosophy, not a philosophy of a certain individual" (referred to by Hegel)

The all-embracing Western humanism of Matthew Arnold's concept of "culture" in Culture & Anarchy (1869) was complemented by the many "cultures," each with its claim to respect in its own right, of Tylor's Primitive Culture (1872) of Literary Digest, April 1921 on "The preservation and study of the Sun" E.B.

T.L.S.: Feb. 28, 1990

Lanson's Histoire de la littérature française (1895) is well worth re-reading. Although he did not attain the unqualified aim to create an Annales-style "literary tides history of France", his book openly centered on the celebration of the "puissantes individualités qui sont l'objet propre de l'histoire littéraire". His history is indeed a continuous history, told by one man, of the "progrès de la littérature française" (whence his famous "attardés et égarés"). Denis Hollier, ed. A New History of French Literature, Harvard, is deliberately extraterritorial. It is very largely written by Americans with just a sprinkling of Europeans. It is difficult to understand why the editor did not include a fair proportion of original contributions alongside the translations. The only exceptions made are, somewhat inexplicably, for the French texts of Apollinaire & for one or two minor 18th-century verses. It is essentially a history of attitudes, ideas, visions, political & social struggles as they are embodied in written works, but the actual embodiment is left out. The deliberate attempt to get away from the Pantheon approach to literary history does not lead as far as the history of literature imagined by Valéry (& cited by Barthes in Sur Racine) in which there would be no authors! But most major authors (to use a question-begging term) are scalped through several articles.

"Good criticism which may be understood & appreciated outside [illegible] but departments has been dismissed by Catharine Gallagher as 'devoted only to the elitist & the theory class.'"

This history decline to be a story, let alone a pageant. Discontinuity is the name of the game. If questions canonicity. Who matters? La Fontaine, Bossuet are downgraded; Sade, Artaud are upgraded. If jurors cases are made for the devaluation of Desboodes. Talmor & Sand

In 1987, with the posthumous publication of Hemingway's *The Garden of Eden*, it was revealed that the most male of males tended to androgyny, bisexual & some imaginative role-swapping in bed (& possibly out of it). The closest Hemingway came to making a public admission of this indulgence in his lifetime was to dye his hair pink. He shied clear of the truth at most times, which is tantamount to saying that he shied off himself. Even the brief biographical note, which editors often request of authors, was likely to result in a spray of untruths. He was wondrously mendacious, he was envious of others' success, ungrateful of their support, & got a positive thrill from hurting people: He [illegible] again & again appearing in the Pamplona bull-ring 5 times & even posed a job as a picador. Most of his helping hands seem to have been extended, as Scott Fitzgerald's phrase, "to a man on a ledge a little higher up."

According to Dilthey, "lived experience" is the conjunction of consciousness (*Bewußtsein*) & awareness (*Bewußtheit*): the apprehension of this & the reflexive process. Time is the "inexorable advance of the present."

An awful lot Dem Bones & you might worry that the state of our language was a terminal one. *The* American Vice-President is forced to wonderful dire effect in *The State of the Language*, revised edition. Better a frozen Doublespeak than weasel words

The marriages explode like fireworks: their friendships glow fitfully
& ked banked-up bonfires, on & on into the night.
In "Little Gidding", Eliot describes how, after an air-raid before the
all-clear, he "met" what he calls "a familiar compound ghost" — an en-
counter which is clearly based on Dante's meeting with Brunetto Latini
in the Inferno, Canto XV. The ghost reports their common endea-
vour: "Since our concern was speech, & speech impelled us/ To purify
the dialect of the tribe..." The allusion is to Mallarmé's "Tombeau d'
Edgar Poe": "Donner un sens plus pur aux mots de la tribe." Yet
Eliot intends by this phrase something very different from Mallarmé. He
appears to propose a kind of cultural diktat, the imposition of lang-
uage. "The Music of Poetry" (1942): "No poetry, of course, is ever exactly
the same speech that the poet talks & reads: but it has to be in such
a relation to the speech of his time that the listener or reader can say, 'How
is how I should talk if I could talk poetry.'" If the sanctification of
language were Eliot's programme, they should be in with the vernacular
of Mark Twain in "American Literature & the American Language" (1933),
"I should place him even with Dryden & Arnold, as one of those rare writers
who have brought their language up to date, & in so doing, 'purified the
dialect of the tribe.'" The "purification" may involve the introduction of
colloquial "impurities". In Shakespeare's metaphor, as Michael Hays
in his book Dialectical Aphorisms, Constructions, touches on Eliot —
the semi-comatose, generally benign twilight state that frequently over-
take-

One of the most sympathetic essays in the American historian John Clive's [whose magisterial Macaulay: The Shaping of the Historian appeared in 1973], Not by Fact Alone is a reread of a new edition of Lord Thompson's Lark Rise to Candleford.

the successful image. Linguistically undemanding, the cliché is therefore "effective". The feedback, as it were, is "better" than the track we make for ourselves, because it comes in speed of address. What it loses in individuality & crispness of texture it gains in common currency. "The more one thinks about our common kit of metaphors for mental states & events, the less inclined one is to take it for granted, or dismiss it as banal. 'All the track of one's mind', 'something stirred in her memory', 'he groped for words'... etc. — they're brilliant! A whole literature, really, trodden down into the soil like last year's leaves, fertilizing whatever grows above the ground now." The way of resurrecting the brilliance of a phrase is to work a variant of it, as Raymond Chandler does in The Long Goodbye: "the girl gave him a look which ought to have stuck at least two inches out of his back" ("Lost in daggers"). Or what Saul Bellow does with the phrase "a turn-on" in Humboldt's Gift: "Hey, Renata didn't need an ignition key to start a car. One of her kisses on the head would turn it on." It's a commonplace to compare the sunset (or the sunrise) to blood. In Dombey & Son Dickens produces his variant: "even the sky itself was changed, & had an expression in it plainly." Cf. Mallarmé: "Les Fenêtres": "et grand le soir saigne pour les vitres." To this straightforward idea, Eliot imparts the Modernist spin & delivers one of the great poetic puzzles, which has proved for over 50 years: "Let us go then, you & I, / When the evening is spread out against the sky / Like a patient etherised upon a table..."

TLS. Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 1990

Each side has recruited & financed allies whose political systems & beliefs make a mockery of its oath. No doubt a very small number of Russians have been persuaded that Soviet aid to Libya benefits Mankind socialism, or even just the proletariat.

84 Catherine Gallagher: The Common Reader sits astride the finest line within academic critics. The T.L.S. etc. belong to what used to be called the leisure of the theory class: on the coffee table or the bedside stand. The slash "/" is a kind of heroic effort: "It isn't easy to squat on the fence".

Christina Stead: "The 'Reds' have done me a disservice by claiming me as one of their woolly sheep".

Power grows from the barrel of a gun, especially if the gunmen are already in power.

Tell it not in the Maison des sciences de l'homme; whisper it not in the University of Beijing: histoire événementielle is back in fashion. Danton of himself: "Delicious grub, splendid liquor, women of one's dreams — that's what power turns often men grab it." Thomas Jefferson: "The tree of Liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots & tyrants." For some, death offered a new beginning. Marie Grosholtz made death-masks from the decapitated heads of the famous, including Louis XVI, the Princesse de Lamballe & Robespierre. Following her marriage to a civil engineer named Tussaud during the Directory, she transported her show to the Lyceum Theatre in London, & the Tussaud family have carried a decoration out of death ever since. Marie took the post

* 2 ##

Wanking (coitus?)
They evidently have their ears very close to the ground.

of the German-born sculptor in wax, Dr Philippe Curtius, who, before 1789, was exhibiting the wax models of the ~~d~~ Jacobins & the infamous in the Palais-Royal, as well as at No 20 at the Boulevard du Temple, the Site of 18th cent. Paris. Daniel Arasse in his Guillotine & the Terror shows that Diderot was in favour of dissecting criminals alive in order to further medical research*. The most reprehensible aspect of the French Revolution was the way it attempted to control, not the external lives, but the internal thoughts of its "citizens". This was Robespierre's real crime.

Literary Review, April 1990

So far as there can be said to be a predominant culture of our times, it is surely the popular culture of the Sun, which provides endless photographs of naked women to spice it's male readers' jaded masturbatory fantasies engaged
the only from the Red brick Universities that Britain was being throttled by its school ties

Decrying the injustice of his 6-month prison sentence for defacing library books, Joe Orton said, "The old whore secretly really lifted up her skirts & the stench was awful pretty foul".

Uta Ranke-Heinemann, Eunuchs for Heaven: the Catholic Church & Sexuality. Tr. John Brownjohn. She has academic tenure & teaches religious history at Essen. The process of "celibatarian dehumanization" took place in two stages: from 1139 onwards when Pope Innocent II declared that ordination was an impediment to marriage & after the Council of

The Jewish attitude to swapping point
people with loads of money do quite a lot (but never enough)
scoring.

Trent then has obligatory forms of marriage prevented people who had previously been married from becoming priests. There is no evidence that Jesus was a eulogist for virginity. Indeed the modern Jewish scholar Ben-Chorin claims that Jesus was probably married. Until his late entry into public life, Jesus was "subject" to his parents (Luke 2:51f) would have married. St Paul said that he had no knowledge of any pronouncement on celibacy by Jesus & could offer a personal opinion only (I Cor. 7:25). The old testament does not foreshadow a Virgin birth. St Paul & St Mark are silent. St John describes Jesus as "the son of Joseph". It is only in the later sections of Matthew & Luke that we find the idea of a virgin birth as "a metaphor of God's special initiative in the process of redemption". St Augustine neurotically "divorced love & sex". He held that when the first humans disobeyed God & ate of the forbidden fruit, "they were ashamed & covered their genitals not by leaves. He concluded from this that what the couple tried to conceal was the vehicle of original sin (Romans 15/18). Louise Brown, the world's first test-tube baby was half-way to Augustine's dream child, at least her mother would have conceived her without any sexual pleasure".

She does it for money too, but she steal thirty pounds your pocket, instead of whacking you over the head & snatching your handbag.
The dossers have coloured London's Underground into a base to beg & steal & use as a refuge from the police. John Healy, Streets Above Us: The Tube is some

its telephantine format.

Ceppos which has sucked a load of indigeste into it." When told that there is not much future in rearching dustbins, Finn comes up with the redundant observation: "Not much future in empty". Anyone who wants to see the future, all they got to do is look in the paint-pot.

The "Clean Air Indoor Act" bans or restricts smoking in nearly all public places in New York, with the merciful exception of bars. Last year a court ordered a tobacco company to the family of a woman smoker who had died of lung cancer; although the verdict was overturned on technical grounds more such suits are expected.

Leonard Woolf was unbelievably tight-fisted. When the two of them had over £18,000 in the bank, their living expenses amounted to no more than £800 a year. Leonard recorded every penny he spent in his account ledgers & never gave up the economy measure of using publishers' proofs in the laboratory, including the proofs of Virginia's articles.

Josephine would pay 38 bills a month while Napoleon's mother, in her patch clothes, was gloomy "pauvre fou ça dure". After Napoleon's defeat in 1814 the Tsar & other kings courted Josephine at Malmaison. As she went out with the Tsar in one of her filmy dresses, caught cold & died before Napoleon's miraculous return from Elba.

Literary Review, May 1990

Renoir declared that "I paint with my prick", much for cheer chauvinism has sunk with Norman Mailer's claim to write with his balls. The old tutor Hofman offered a female student the ambiguous accolade, "The painting is so good you'd never know it was done by a woman."

who is afraid of a big bad book?" his voracious sexual appetite.
How, at age eighty-seven, has he managed to stay in such good shape?
18 By not working. He scrapes into anthologies with one or perhaps two poems.
The Cyclops, to pinch a phrase from Mark Bankland, connoisseurs
of repression.
Quentin Crisp: "In Hollywood, beauty is a Jewish man's idea of an
Aryan woman."
D. J. Enright: "A man ought to be able to call his life his own, however public
his work."
Both lawyers, whose eminence was matched only by the enormous fees, were operating
considerably below par in the conduct of the case
Morris Zapp, David Lodge's indefatigably peripatetic professor, tried to
write a critical work on Jane ~~Austen~~ Austen so exhaustive that he would
be absolutely "not in further to say."
William Gerhardie on Virginia Woolf's The Waves: "The literary adjective
to describe it accurately is fucking awful! ... she presents us with a tedium
never known on land or sea, a tedium multiplied by her own bloodless
anaemic self—Oh, the pitch!"

135 TLS, Feb. 9-15, 1990

To his dying day Vladimir Nabokov maintained that Doctor Zhivago was
a piece of pulp fiction about, as he put it in the afterword to the Russian
version of Lolita, a "lyrical doctor with penny-dreadful mystical-messes
& philistine turns of speech" & an unbearably straightforward teenage
romances. This was not just sour grapes because the Nobel Prize had gone
to a Russian novel that was not his own. Back in Berlin in 1927, writing
under his émigré name of V. Sirin, he had reviewed a volume of Marina
Tsvetaeva's poetry & had this to say about Pasternak's invidious influence

on her. "His nose is convex, cartoon & goggle-eyed, as though his muse suffered from Basedow's disease ... His syntax is rudely debased ... he has a rather poor knowledge of Russian ..." Today, such remarks seem like lèze-majesté. In the post-Pasternak's reputation, as Peter Levi admits, has been fuelled by anti-communism. Anna Akhmatova, who loved Pasternak & his poetry, was not much taken with Doctor Zhivago either. She found the figure Lara ridiculous & held that much of the novel must have been written by Pasternak's then mistress Olga Ivinskaya. Lara is "the greatest being in the world". She had for him the unique charm of the incorporeal. Her hands astonished him like a sublime idea, etc. The "him" referred to here is the villainous Komarovsky who seduces the innocent girl. The novel has a number of themes, not to say messages. One, which was of course stressed in the West when the novel first appeared, was to show the ideals of the Revolution turning sour, the Monster devouring its children. The most amazing coincidences occur. Zhivago keeps meeting Lara's husband; Lara appears as a nurse at the front, at the very place where Zhivago himself has been sent; & Lara is anti-Semitic. Pasternak too was a Jew who tried to play down his racial origin. His parents & their two daughters found refuge in England. Both Mandelstam & Wittgenstein were Jews who, at one time or another, spoke the language of European anti-semitism. But poor Mandelstam died in 1937 & Wittgenstein, from the early 1930s on, never ceased to be worried about the Jews." In 1937 he even confessed to friends that he felt guilty about the fact that he had never declared himself a Jew. W.H.

Jewish's

family had been Protestant for 2 generations; Pasternak's had never been anything but Jewish. Yet in a letter to Olga, about Shivago, dated 1946, we learn "the point was to settle accounts with Judaism, & with every kind of nationalism!" He always played down the importance of his racial origins. A childhood accident had left one leg shorter than the other & this exempted him from active duty in both wars. He welcomed the October revolution, seeing it in Nietzschian terms as a triumph of the ruthless will. The rest of his life shows him struggling to come to terms with this ruthlessness, adapting more easily than Akhmatova & Mandelstam. Till the end of his life Zinaida Naygus (wife of a pianist) & Olga Ivinskaya fought over him. To a reader reasonably well acquainted with modern European & American poetry the claims made for Pasternak seem gratuitously excessive.

The Germans, virtually without exception, greeted the outbreak of war in 1914 as a Befreiungskrieg, a war of liberation, a crusade to destroy a stifling old order. Embodied especially in the Mean Commercialism of England. The mood in Berlin during the last days of July was one of sustained ecstasy, of mass orgasm that could find release only in the outbreak of war. Surrounded by these expectant crowds, singing & cheering as they paraded through those blazing days & warm nights, how could any German foreign minister have coolly weighed the advantages of peace & war? For, as a Nietzschean Tat. That, in the German view, was something that Anglo-Saxon Händler concerned only with their profits, would never understand. Romain Rolland's All

Hugh MacDiarmid: "Keep on going to yourwards: / I'm the civilisation you're fighting for."

All Quiet on the Western Front, an all-time bestseller, is significant for what it tells us about Remarque & his generation than for what it has to say about the war. It was a generation that considered itself to be lost & alienated, projecting both objective & subjective discontents on the misdeeds of its parents. The war provided an excuse for them to turn their backs on the past. It was this neophilia that drove Hitler & his appeal. The Nazis promised a new age.

There is not a joke, not a spark of wit, in Harrison E. Salisbury's book. American journalists enjoy a higher status in society than their British cousins ever attain, occasional knighthoods notwithstanding. They expect treatment as One of Us by the Great & the Good. As Dell Shaw, the unspoken code is "those who say don't know, & those who know don't say!"

TLS, Feb 16–22, 1990

A. N. Wilson, *C. S. Lewis*: "We do Lewis no honour to make him into a plaster saint, & he deserves our honour." In the inner sanctum of Lewis worship, the Marion E. Wade Center of Wheaton College, Illinois, Lewis's wardrobe & bikes are present in a glass display case alongside the portable typewriter of another latter-day saint, Malcolm Muggeridge. Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Monrovia, California, is illuminated by an eight-foot-high stained-glass window of Lewis, while the biblical scholar J. B. Phillips has described in *Ring of Truth* his spiritual encounters with the resurrected Lewis in 1963. With a kind of heretical glee Wilson defies the ranks of true believers, chief among

171 Anna Akhmatova called Pasternak "a divine hyperbole" because of his proneness to praise others over-generously.

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them Walter Hooper, high priest of the Lewis Cult, & steadfast in his belief in the Perpetual Virginity of C. S. Lewis" Lewis's 30-year-long relationship with Mrs Jane Moore. "Minto", — an undergraduate of 18 & a pretty blonde widow of 45 with a grown daughter.

Richard Aldington's marriage to the bisexual poet Hilda Doolittle was undermined by mutual infidelities on both sides. Obliged to pay out large sums of money in a divorce settlement, he lived in almost permanent indigence. His second wife was the daughter-in-law of his then mistress. He cleverly regretted having helped T. S. Eliot on his way by introducing him to the Lewis funds for him in 1922.

What would a society be like in which the people with power & authority were universally uniformly decent, scrupulous, fair & kind? There is of course a persistent suspicion that it would be dull as ditchwater. Then Moral Theorists have a problem. They can hardly recommend that people be indecent, unscrupulous, unfair, or cruel. In Innocence & Experience Stuart Hampshire shares the suspicion & thinks the problem as Machiavelli's problem. Ignoring the problem turns both practising politicians & Moral Theorists into Utopian naive innocents or experienced Cynics. This must be a false alternative, he thinks.

Encounter, April 1990

In the West the fatalism of failure has been replaced by the fatalism of success. Fanfares ring out in the U.S. for the triumph of life, a dream, which is equated with the end of history (or more precisely of un-American activities). Ludwig Wittgenstein: "He alone is a revolutionary who can revolutionize himself."

We have named the notion of a revolution led by the Right—a "conservative revolution"—no one has yet spoken of "counter-revolution"—that takes the nations of Central Europe telescoped the decay of Communism, which it might have lasted for decades, into a matter of months—into weeks and days that "shook the world." It's happening so fast that many predictions look silly as soon as they're made. Once Communism became dead, the cadaverous nature of the Soviet body politic has long been quite obvious.

Winston Churchill periodically demanded from his cowering subordinates an account of what was happening in some area or another, "on one half of a sheet of note-paper." He found that this concentrated their minds on essentials. A Pan-Europlan community would be a pathetic, lax, valuable elephantiasis. In his Table Talk, Coleridge remarked: "There is a meanness, a too-muchness, in all Germans." The real question is whether there is a too-muchness in Germany's size. Even the Federal Republic bulks very large in the Community of the Twelve.

Philip Larkin said of Yeats's intensely individual tone of voice: "As personal as Garbo." Larkin: "Ambake"? "Meeting death, a whole day nearer now." He was a Tory—"Oh, I adore Mrs Thatcher"—& could be notoriously Philistine in his views. "Love Again": "Love again: waking at ten past three / (Angela's taken her home by now?), / The bedroom hot as a pottery,) . . . / Someone else feeling her breasts & cunt, / . . . / And me supposed to be ignorant, / . . ." Saul Bellow: "Death is the dark backing, a mirror needs if we are to see anything". All the half-joking put-downs & famous disclaimers of his—"Foreign poetry? No!"; "Oh, for Christ's sake,

One doesn't study poets! You read them, & think, That's marvellous, how is it done, could I do it?"; "You must realise I've never had 'ideas' about poetry" — can be taken on one level as the self-protective bluff of a man intent on remaining immured in his provincialism & philistinism, remaining down-to-earth in a down-at-heel age. Randall Jarrell: "...an age of criticism is not an age of writing, nor an age of reading: it is the art of criticism which has become the representative or archetypal act of the intellectual" (Poetry & the Age, 1955, pp. 73-4) The critic has gained greater ascendancy & decline of the poet has been that much more precipitous." Octavio Paz: "The seizure of power of professors, the new pre-eminence of critics over creators," Larkin exhibited a kind of hatred, however well-mannered, towards the academic critic & Academe in general. He to the thoroughly professionalised critic, newly ensconced in the university, like all else, existed for the sake of criticism. His raison d'être was to provide raw material for post-graduate seminars. What had begun with Randall Jarrell's wonderful joke about the status of the poet in an age of criticism (as if they were all pigs who had mistakenly wandered into a bacon-judging contest only to hear the critics high, "Go away, pig! What do you know about bacon?") has culminated in the not so humorous Anglo Barthes & Foucault on "the death of the author."

Perhaps "Tory thought" is not oxymoron, & a Conservative Philosophy Group is what Oliver St John Gogarty called the Hibernian Academy — a Royal

He earned & spent £12000 a year — an astronomical amount then

treble contradiction in terms. Mrs Thatcher's politics are those of the Lord Coppers & the Daily Beast, "self-sufficiency at home, self-assertion abroad" — a combination of entirely-trans & populist nationalism. Peel's mantle has been claimed & for her by her acolytes through "historical body-snatching".

In 1920 Lewis Namier lent Spengler's Der Untergang des Abendlandes to Arnold Toynbee, & thus helped to crystallize in Toynbee's mind the theme of what was to become his life's work, The Study of History. Namier was & remained the professional's professional. The eminent Oxford medievalist Bruce McFarlane could not bear hearing The Study of History on his shelves. On an academic visit of to Peking, Toynbee made a passionate declaration of love to Eileen Power — the most beautiful of female historians. She got rid of him by pretending that she was already engaged. Many years afterwards, she did indeed marry Michael Postan, who once told me [Max Beloff] that he could find nothing in Namier on George III that he did not already know from E. & A. G. Porritt's The Unreformed House of Commons (1903). Toynbee became a figure, first in the U.S., where he was taken up by Henry Luce, & then in the last & latter part of his life among some Japanese. The posts he held during his long career were seen as instruments for his own purpose.

Ackroyd carried his teeth in his pocket except when he wanted to smile at a photo in paper-boy.

For all practical purposes, everything in our American Society either inside

the movement for power and better children.
the "sleazy junk culture" of America.
Paul Greengrass, ghost-writer of Spycatcher

or caricatures. Television as television itself caricatures & imitates everything else. We have newspapers, magazines & even "books" in the form of television screens or television reality. At each step in the chain we recede further from reality. Television has become a simulation of reality & reality itself. There is in fact no reality any more. It's all artefact. Paddy Chayefsky: "Television is democracy at its ugliest." Samuel Butler: "God though he is omnipotent cannot change the past. Therefore he created historians."

Encounter, May 1990

Political predictions are easiest to make when they are least needed. When the political parameter points to continuity they become more difficult at a time of rapid & violent change. The years 1987-90 witnessed a growing widening—like the gaping blades of a pair of scissors—between the spiritual-cultural sphere (i.e. glasnost) & the material economic sphere (perestroika). In 1891 Eugen Richter, leader of the Liberals in the German Parliament, published Sozialdemokratische Zukunftsbilder, a political fantasy on the consequences of the establishment on German soil of a government on orthodox Marxist lines. It would result in massive losses over the order. The flight of artists & writers would not greatly disconcert the authorities, because there would be enough toilers left to sing the praise of the regime. But the exodus of skilled workers—engineers, physicians... would bring emigration to a stop at the borders which would receive their orders: "Shoot to kill!"

Keats warns us against "irritable reaching after fact & reason"
Peering under skirts, one finds dirty sneakers. The kind of book like
"20 things you didn't know about the frogs"
Like many such doubles, it tends be shifted on to foreigners. Bark, bark, the dogs do bark, the strangers are coming to town. Nostalgically, we think of Palmerston & gunboat diplomacy & the days when "Whatever happens, we have got the Maxim gun, & they have not."
The comfortable became the union of a man's friend & mistress. Vauxhall's "Sitting room at the front, spare room at the back". E.E. Cummings wrote a poem about doing a coal in terms that suggested a man deflowering a virgin echoed in one English bumper sticker that goes: "If you can't get it in first... don't force it."
Writers, artists, & eccentrics are capable of backing a cause, good or bad, but that stance may have nothing to do with their creative work or with their research. Nuclear physics accounts for neither the Stalinism of Jean Frédéric Joliot-Curie nor the anti-Stalinism of Andrei Sakharov.
Most Hard-worthy is deadly dull, with a "jack pack" stacked on the end. We need the high culture which once was the Third Programme & may not be found more generally. For which relief, much thanks.
An example of trunk art: Carl André's Equivalent VIII (120 unfired fire-bricks arranged in a rectangle, for which the London Tate Gallery paid £4,000 in 1970).
The Soviet people should bypass "democratization" & opt for democracy. The difference between the two terms is, as Alexander Zinoviev has pointed out, that between "canalisation" & "canal".

London Review of Books, 5 April 1990

The deaf have been granted their own language. Sign-languages are now known not to be parasitic on spoken ones, & not to be a form of pantomime. Signing is language. American Sign language is different from Signed English & New Zealand Sign is distinctly different from Australasian Sign

For Hume, our inability to give any reasons for believing in an external world is itself grounds for doubt. But for Reid our inability to doubt that there is an external world makes the sceptical effort to doubt irrational.

The Nazi party had the good sense to reject Heidegger in favour of Alfred Rosenberg, whose position as the ideological theoretician of the system Heidegger detested.

When the treacherous Robert produced Goodbye to all that, the long-suffering father, a real great gentleman of the old school, who had supported & encouraged the son for many years & received in return only patronage & contempt, reported all the ages of 84 with his own autobiography, To return to all that. Alas, this splendid gesture merely revealed the impotence of the father, his powers irrevocably lost to the the killer progeny. The son's book was a runaway success, the father's remainder. If Laura Riding, a Circe in modern dress, had not set about enchanting a new Odysseus, a brilliant American called Schuyler Jackson. Graves might have remained indefinitely in her thrall. Jackson, a sadist, collaborated with Riding in her ritual destruction of his own unique Kit, & then turned the goddess & reduced her, at least temporarily, to a merely spousal role. For Graves, Riding was the White Goddess

Nancy Nicholson had married Graves & lived with him on land-outs from their families. Eliot courteously but firmly refused Riding's articles & poems for the Criterion: Her prose is unremarkable & has not worn well.

Bernard Bergonzi, Exploding English: Criticism, Theory, Culture recounts the quarrels that have made English Studies a bad-tempered place in the 80's. It is an entertaining chronicle of recent academic bitchery — the MacCabe affair, Hough-Hawkes "pigs off" incident, the Gardner-Kermode exchange of insults out of their successive Norton lectures. He suggests "a separation of Cultural Studies from English," the latter studying "in detail, a single genre, poetry." Such "pragmatism" looks to me suspiciously like giving away the store for a bit of peace & quiet. Cultural Studies would make off with all the literary history, all the literary theory, all the prose works, all the poetry it cared to use. In Professing Literature: An Institutional History, Gerald Graff points out "that" "A university is a curious accretion of historical contradictions that it has systematically forgotten." America is the glue that now holds the World rickety academic enterprise together. The academic study of literature in America has adopted for its convenience the "field coverage system". The neat wholeness of the subject is broken down into a patchwork of subdisciplines. Each is the property of one departmental member, or at best a small clique. This system underlies the educational Marxisme "friction-free". The fact Graff is correct is borne out by Stanford opening question to strangers at MLA this convention — "What's your field?" — to which the

another "English literature" would be thought flippant & "Late Wordsworth" eminently normal.

187 T.L.S. Feb. 23–March 1, 1990

Hatred of writers & writing in the past is a well-known occupational hazard in the Eng lit profession. Detestation of Eng dilettantes in any form, abolition of the whole canon & witchhunt of "great" authors. The National past is regarded as a National embarrassment. Patronizing the past has become an industry. Milton is becoming a kind of E. P. Thompson-cum-Raymond Williams & his final opinion is divided as to whether Wordsworth's occasional insights into social injustice outweigh his benign acceptance of it. Milton's decision to keep the pair Adam & Eve leave Eden hand in hand marks a calculated break with the primitive tradition, the unparadised pair are represented by Michelangelo & Masaccio in all the orthodox desolation & grief.

Nelson Mandela's embarrassment with North, as compared to the acute distress of Winnie, whose own father was a Member of Mangosuthu's council. Mandela is deeply distrusted by black radical intellectuals, because he has never denounced or shaken those chiefly families with whom he is connected, & who have cooperated with Pretoria's "Homelands" policy. Neither Nelson nor Winnie is prepared to take their kinsfolk "on the other side"; they stand for reconciliation between blacks & other blacks.

196 Dean R. Koontz & Judith Michael are the two most popular novelists in the U.S.; yet nobody I know reads them. So sharp is the division in American publishing between literature — which editors

claim to admire — a "good trash", which they choose to sell.
Until recently the subject of sex was taboo in the Soviet Union. Official propaganda portrayed it as a tool of Western ideology, an attempt to corrupt the healthy mentality of the ~~Soviets~~ Soviétiques. At the beginning of Gorbachev's rule a young Muscovite named Kuznetsov was imprisoned because he had xeroxed Lolita. In 1988 an unofficial exhibition of erotic art lasted for only one week. One of the exhibits was a live naked woman, bathed in sweet cream. Visitors started with one another to lick it off, & the event ended in a scandal. The Family, a Moscow weekly, recently started to publish instalments of a sex encyclopaedia "for children". The origins of sexual freedom began under Brezhnev. Brezhnev himself treasured pornography & his desk drawers at his dacha were stuffed with pornographic magazines. It was then that a sexual revolution occured. Young people engaged in group sex in private apartments & in city saunas, bribing bath attendants, as if they were promoting the concept of collectivism. The samizdat magazine Vkhayt (a deliberate distortion of "all right"): "The hammer & sickle is a true symbol of copulation"; "The Whole Soviet social body is now close to a state of orgasm, thanks to its many years of active masturbation"; "Lenin was an erotic symbol, having impregnated the unhappy Russian land with Communism".

Paolo Rossi, Paragone degli ingegni moderni e postmoderni has burst into the open a debate, long latent in Italy, between the historicism of philosophy & the hermeneutic philosophers under the influence of Heidegger (e.g. Gianni Vattimo)

* TLS July 27- August 2, 1990, p. 792

London Review of Books, 8 March 1990

R.H. Tawney on gradualist Socialism. "You can peel an onion layer by layer, but you can't dismember a tiger claw by claw." of the metaphor of "slicing the salami". Hitler was overrun by a Stalin-dominated Red Army rather than by European Marxist humanists.

Like Manet's Olympia, she is directly challenging the person who is looking at her; she is piercing right through the camera with her direct gaze to give your look back, with interest. She is not presenting herself as an object of contemplation so much as throwing down a gauntlet. Essentially, her attitude is one of: "Now show me what you can do." She always enjoyed the spectacle of herself. A grande horizontale. Hence is where you go when nobody else will have you.

"No conversational shorthand of complete understanding" (James Cameron) Tom Dardis, The Thirsty Muse: Alcohol & the American Writer. Faulkner had finished his best work by the time he was 44, Fitzgerald by the time he was 38 & Hemingway by 46. O'Neill was the one who got away: he became tectotal at 37 &, in The Iceman cometh & Long Day's Journey into Night, wrote two good plays on addiction. On an evening out in Venice, the Chairmatic Colonel Cantwell in Hemingway's Across the River & into the Trees, drinks, before going to dinner, a gin & Campari, 3 extra-dry martinis another gin & Campari & three Montgomerys. At dinner with Renata, the Colonel shares a bottle of Capri Bianco, two bottles of Valpolicella, two bottles of champagne. He takes a bottle of Valpolicella along when he & Renata go off to have sex in a gondola, & when she gets back to his hotel he has a nightcap swig of the Valpolicella which the waiter has thoughtfully left.

Hemingway finds nothing out of the ordinary in the Colonel's drinking — a pint of gin and a bottle of alcohol during a single evening. This was a fairly accurate ~~description~~ transcription of the amount of booze Hemingway was scrupulously ingesting. Though his constitution never collapsed from drinking in the same way that Fitzgerald's & Faulkner's did, alcohol was vital to the process by which he became a hollowed-out caricature of himself. Hemingway: "Good writers are drinking writers"; Faulkner: "Can't write sh[illegible] Whiskey won't cure." If ever there was someone who simply should not have drunk at all, it was Fitzgerald. He would become paralytic on tiny amounts of alcohol. His drinking was bound up with the then widespread sense that alcohol was a necessary to writers, & with his admiration for Hemingway. Increasingly, Darwin & his followers came to recognise that "evolution" & "progress" were not synonymous. Environment could operate in a multiplicity of ways, & the most well adapted inherited characteristics did not have to be the "highest" or "most civilised" ones. When Darwin wrote The Descent of Man in 1871, he now cautioned his readers that "progress is no invariable rule." E. R. Lankester, one of his younger followers, soon called attention to the existence of parasites as apparent examples of regressively evolved life forms. Necessarily arising at a late, late stage of their hosts & who have to pre-exist to provide the environment that selects & supports them — parasites offer a loathsome & terrifying model for the future course of evolution. Lankester's 1880 book Degeneration: A Chapter in Evolution, expressed these fears while also [illegible] the first words of its title. A general attention in Britain & in France,

The Dong-Xiang silent Russian hasn't been invented yet.

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as early as 1857 the physician Paul Morel introduced the concept of dégénérescence to signify a broad variety of presumably hereditary deviations from the "normal type" (physical signs like hernias, goiters, pointed ears, stunted growth, deaf & dumbness, clubfeet, etc).
The public exhibition in London & Paris of an African woman, Saartjie Baartman, as the "Hottentot Venus," the feminine ideal of her people: vast buttocks, an enlarged vaginal "flap" & large pendulous breasts. In 1815, Cuvier had her carefully drawn by artists.
If the text has no original, intentional meaning but is merely the poor sponge that soaks up the famous historical, ideological & social discourses of the day, then each reading is put on the same level as the next, i.e. Dr Johnson's version Lear is as constitutive of Shakespeare's Lear as Kermode's in the mythology of Cleopatra, the snake is not just the means of her death. It is also her defining feature, her emblem. You can take any Renaissance lady, leave her unchanged inside, in her Renaissance clothes in an entirely Renaissance setting, but give her a snake & she becomes Cleopatra. The image of Cleopatra overlaps in part with the image of the Gorgon Medusa. In Michelangelo's famous drawing the snake not only clings to her breast: it so intertwines with the ribbons & tresses of her hair that it is hard to be sure exactly where snake ends & hair begins. Cleopatra here is the snake-locked Gorgon.
Faced with a straight question, the diplomat speaks as fluent foreign sweet nothings. Russian writers & politicians are more concerned to establish their lack of seriousness than they are to serve. Only in the abstract is this not such a bad thing.

Joyce to Mr Duffy: "Friendship between man & woman is impossible because there must be sexual intercourse".

For the Beats, represented by Ginsberg, polymorphous sexual activity stepped up by drugs was accepted as the ultimate good. One problem is the difficulty of taking him seriously. The Ginsberg story has had less to do with poetry than with the adroit use of publicity. In youth he was a market research clerk, a parking clerk, a booking agent, etc. The poetic end-product of the Ginsberg cottage industry rises: weaker & weaker echoes of "Howl". E.g. the poem "Love comes" contains next on the level of "He fucked me in the East / He fucked me in the West / He fucked me South / my cock in his mouth / He fucked me North / No room shd forth". For a mystic, he seems the prime example of Aldous Huxley's dictum. "High minds, low loins, the higher the lower".

TLS, Aug. 4-10, 1989

A generation of zero-growth rates in the economy. Three-quarters of the Soviet people believe there is now more freedom in their country compared with one year ago.

Roderick Phillips, Putting Asunder: A history of divorce in Western society.

Marriage dissolution is the most conspicuous in the overall transformation of our family life. The U.S. is traditionally the most prone to divorce among Western nations. Now in many Western nations a half of all marriages can now be expected to be cancelled in the courts. Religious observance then is more widespread now in the divorce-prone U.S. than in almost any other "Christian" country. The officially Catholic countries, Italy, Spain, Portugal & so on, now have divorce facilities freely available. Divorce has become the ordinary, accepted outcome for a large proportion of all marriages. In Greece the Minoan (Minoan) "a girl without limits", meaning she has no dowry, is still used.

The firm has been neutralized by an injection of CIA cash.

Hiltrud Gnüg, Kult der Kälte: der Klassizcke Dandy im Spiegel der Weltliteratur. In La Fille aux yeux d'or, a novel otherwise still redolent of the gothic tales of Ann Radcliffe, Balzac creates in Henry de Marsay a protagonist who is already torn by an inner struggle between "impassibilité" or coolness & erotic passion. This is seen by Hiltrud Gnüg & Lichaw as exotic & the climax & similar figures throughout the works of Stendhal, Baudelaire, Barbey d'Aurevilly, Villiers de l'Isle Adam, Huysmans & Proust as well as Byron & Wilde. A new sensibility emerges that is contemptuous of nature & distrusts the promptings of the human heart, the antithesis of the Romantic faith in the ethical landscape. The gulf between natural animality & artificial spirituality can be bridged only by a conscious artistry. What Walter Pater called "the ecstasy of the gem-like flame"

T.L.S. August 11-17, 1989

When Roy Campbell discovered in 1929 that his wife was having an affair with Vita Sackville-West, he told C.S. Lewis about it in a London pub. Lewis "listened in fascinated silence" & finally said: "Fancy being cuckolded by a woman!" He remembers Campbell's a "black face" & wounded pride. "Cuckold" was a favorite Lewis word, the predicament it nowadays evokes is a literary one, the kind that is jeered at in comedy. Lewis took a Homish pleasure in situations which seemed reducible to literary stereotypes. He rejoiced in one of his pupils' unworthy description of courtship love as "a vast medieval erection" & in the praise by a Bishop of Exeter of a girls' school production of A Midsummer Night's Dream: "I was very interested in seeing for the first time in my life a female Bottom." At the age of 8, during a formal holiday in

France, he announced that he had "a prejudice against the French." When his father asked why, he replied, "If I knew why, it would not be a prejudice." He deems "Jack" (by which Lewis was known to his friends) is well suited to his jovial "beer & Beowulf" image. His love of stories was not unconnected with his life-long predilection for the adventure stories of Rider Haggard & others. He satirized psychoanalysis, along with free verse & Modernism in that Shadyside of his fiction, The Pilgrim's Regress. His lecture "Psycho-analysis & Literary Criticism" is pompous, laboured, & triumphantly obtuse in his most hectoring style. He confessed that he had "a partly philological hostility to what is fashionable." The reductiveness with which he reacted to psychiatric doctrines had about it a parody of Johnsonian robustness. In Johnson, Lewis found a model for a whole range of behaviour patterns, from insatiable tea-drinking to "fighting for Victory." In the splendid account of John Knox in English Literature in the 16th Century, he cites an example of self-deception in Knox, adding: "No equal instance of self-ignorance is recorded until the moment at which Johnson pronounced himself 'a very polite man'". He mentioned Chesterton alongside Johnson among his major influences. He declined Eliot's invitation to comment on the New English Bible, adding: "Odd, the more the less the Bible is read, the more it is translated." "For nowadays inquisitive Wanderers dig out of our affairs & drench them with the poison of 'publicity'". "There were three kinds of literacy at Oxford: the literate, the illiterate, & the B. Litterate".

The Methuen firm established a policy of Cross-Subsidy which at times was attacked as double personality as in 1920 when the catalogue was dominated by Einstein's Relativity & Edgar Rice Burroughs's Tarzan of the Apes. In the face of

Lawrence's

of prosecution of The Rainbow. Between collapsed with a cravenly apology & offered no defense for themselves or for their author.

A character in Simone de Beauvoir's Les Belles Images says about the loss of the only human value: "The day knowledge was preferred to wisdom. Information is no longer, in Einstein's words, "alive in the consciousness of man" & becomes a mere storage system.

American universities spend large sums of money to hire star researchers, while handing over the teaching of first-year English to underpaid part-time, deadend assistants or, at best, to assistant professors, who know that the road to promotion is not to teach well, but to get that book out, fast (Wayne C. Booth, The Vocation of a Teacher).

T. L. S. August 18-24, 1989

887 Israel:

After 20 months of brutal street warfare, one of the most battle-hardened armies in the world is proving incapable of containing or suppressing, let alone defeating, a ragtag army of children armed only with rocks & stones. The dark underbelly of the Israeli labour market is peopled by Arab kitchen-hands, garage-mechanics, etc. on absurdly low wages. Israel is divorcing herself from most of Lebanon, & not a dog barks (apart from some characteristic growls & yelps from Sharon, architect of that Mad Enterprise).

Pierre Bourdieu has directed a steadily flow of criticism, scorn & condemnation of

Of French academics (*hors académiens*). The subject-matter of *La Noblesse d'état: Grandes Écoles et esprit de corps* is the rôle of the *Grandes Écoles*, those highly selective institutions of higher education, which cream off the brightest products of the *lycées* & cluster for them prestigious & lucrative careers. The *École Normale Supérieure* & the *École Polytechnique* (both founded in 1794) have long held the highest standing & all, challenged only in recent years by the *École Nationale d'Administration*, set up in 1945 to train future mandarins. To prepare for the gruelling competitive ~~examinations~~, *lycéens* who have done well in the *classes préparatoires* may spend an extra one or two years at certain Parisian *lycées*. Successful entrants are for ever distinguished from their fellow high-school graduates who head for the universities & mediocrity. Through the process of *Scolarité*, people are "dubbed" into the service of the State.

Of Peter Gay: "Bagehot ... is doing his best to be a historian, but first & foremost he is still a prophet." He managed to lead millions of readers into believing that he was a great historian. His literary executors, Rosalind Murray, his first wife, called *A Study of History* the "Nonesuch book". The eventual success of the "nonesuch book" in 10 volumes was due to a skilful summary by D. C. Somervell & to the advertising power of Henry Luce, the owner of *Time & Life*. Luce imagined that Toynbee's comparative study of civilizations was intended to point to the U.S. as the supreme achievement of mankind & that his World Order would be the U.S. writ large. When Toynbee shifted the perspective of his later vols. to argue that history was essentially the history of religions, America

lost interest. Till he was by then World-famous.

T.L.S. Aug. 25-31, 1989

Margaret Doody, Frances Burney: The Life in the Works. In Doody's re-drawn genealogy, Burney appears not as the literary daughter of Johnson & aunt of the "safe" Jane Austen, but rather as the reader of Wollstonecraft & cousin of Coleridge. The new Burney is an opium-taker, given to fantasy "automatic writing", who "may have had more in common with Coleridge & De Quincey than we have imagined." "...a changeling - substitution of a Mad Gothic feminist for the cheerful little Augustan chatterbox." "Evelina Anville is 'Eve in a Veil' — Woman not known, Woman obscured.. her name is also "Elle in Alive" — Woman persisting in living." The letter "M" at the start of a male character's name "indicates that the problems of antagonistic masculinity are regressed in that character — Duches [Marchmont], 'Mirvan', 'Macartney', 'Monckton', & even 'Mortimer'." Doody argues that Burney developed a subconscious vocabulary of protest which turns her novels into a kind of psychological samizdat. Where previous critics have lamented a lack of coherence in Burney's later novels, Doody celebrates their wilderness & uncertainties as a form of psychic rebellion against patriliner models. Indicative of her lack of interest in the letters & journals, Doody dismisses the last 26 years of Burney's life in a dozen pages. Nor is Frances Burney in a neurotic obsessively anagrammatizing herself & her anxieties throughout the pages of her novels.

From Moses & Oedipus to Tom Jones & Figaro, the theme of the abandoned child has been ubiquitous in European literature. Jane Austen satirically observes

in Northanger Abbey. Had Catherine Morland been unlucky to find a more romantic lover since there was no family among acquaintance who had reared a boy accidentally found at their door — "but one young man whose origin was unknown." The later examples of Jack (Ernest) Worthing, Tarzan & the Apes & Paddington Bear show that the subject has not lost its potency. "Oblation" is the "institutionalization of abandonment", whereby a male child was handed over to a monastery, on the assumption that it would in due course take vows & be professed as a monk. Thomas Aquinas, Innocent VI & Ulrich von Hutten all began life as abandoned children.

Larry Gross, John Stuart Katz & Jay Ruby, ed *Image Ethics: the Moral rights of subjects in photographs, film & television*. If is not that anyone can be famous for 15 minutes but they can be iconized for a lifetime & beyond. What Justice Brandeis believed was "the most comprehensive of rights & the right most valued by civilized men" — the right to be left alone — has atrophied. The "right to know" conflicts with the privacy of public men & women but also with the rights of citizens who may be tricked into, or are never asked about, the use of their image in the craft & merchandising of film, television & photograph. There are questions to be answered. How far can the documentary go in "heightening reality"? Why should Dade communities be portrayed against their will? Do public figures have any recourse against the docu-drama based on their tragedies & peccadilloes? Vérité technique & fly-on-the-wall technology leave the director as a player.

Maurice Charney, editor of *"Bad" Shakespeare*, expects us to hear in Hamlet's "Mother, mother, mother" the "slang overtones in contemporary American speech" — i.e. Mother-fucker.

the procensular Russian ambassador in Bulgaria

T. L. S. Aug. 1-7, 1989

America posed ever closer links with Fascist Italy in pursuit of the twin aims of ending the Bolshevik threat to Europe & extending the sweep of U.S. business. Since Fascism meant stability, Italy was eminently suitable political partner for both purpose. The outpouring of American capital by 1930 exceeded $460 Million. The Italian invasion of Ethiopia caused only a temporary strain in relations, & Roosevelt continued to support Mussolini, regarding Italian intervention in the Spanish Civil War as part of the battle against the expansion of Bolshevism. From Feb. 1937 the years of his policy shifted from fear of Communism to fear of Germany. Hereafter his policy, both sterile & immoral, continued its weary way until the Duce's action on June 10, 1940 exposed its bankruptcy. Behind the scenes, Mussolini's intermediaries, among them his Mistress & confidante Margherita Sarfatti, suggested to Roosevelt in the spring of 1934 that Italy was determined to defend Austria from German aggression.

granddaughter of Duff Cooper

Artemis Cooper, Cairo in the War, 1939-1945. The arrogant British behaviour towards the Egyptians in the case of a pasha who was insulted by and subsequently drunk officer, resulted in a brisk & condign. The obliterious officer was invigilated to the pasha's house. Most would have kept quiet, but he was seen telling everyone: "You'll never guess what happened to me last night — dashed unpleasant. I got pegged by 6 Nubians!"

Newspaper advertisements mirrored the wartime predicament of the landed gentry. A housemaid is requested "can wear my mink coat on day off"; this brought in too replies.

Eagleton's new preface to *Myths of Power* conducts a pre-emptive, self-deconstructing critique of his own book, in its admission of having totally submerged gender conflict within class conflict.

The Chinese character for "pleasant-tone" consists of two elements with different functions, one (a symbolic tree), pointing to the meaning, the other (a symbolic representation of omen-cracks on a heated tortoise-shell) indicating the sound. Pound renders the character as "omen-tree": mysteriously resonant in its context, but quite beside the point. David Hawkes: "A Chinese need no more think of omens when he heard flocks of patoren in the bath, if someone mentioned chirping crickets".

TLS, Sept. 8-14, 1989

"P. D. Leavis" was from the start always to be associated with her husband, but she was her own woman. "P. D. Roth" would have cut a more independent figure. Her family disapproved of her marriage & would have nothing to do with her afterwards. She took no conscious exception to the fact that women were hampered in their intellectual development by domestic duties, a view which she found in Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*. "One's kitchen & nursery ... is [not] the realm where life is taken place, & I see no reason why [it] ought to live for us". "The higher education that I acquired ... has been continued for the last 40 years by my husband, & sometimes by his best old pupils too, as well as by my three sons". She thought that the anti-domestic bias of some feminine writers was also anti-human. Her predominant concern was with women writers; for Mrs Oliphant's present moral she is primarily responsible. She holds Mrs Oliphant sometimes superior to George Eliot. She

writes admiringly of Damon Runyon in the Scrutiny. "Entertainment of this kind doesn't entertain for long (who can read a Moravia novel twice?) & this lack of entertainment is degrading & dehumanizing (like Kingsley Amis's novels)." Moravia is not banished from some monolithic canon, he is merely placed in the second or many ranks. "It is hard to understand Joyce's enthusiasm for Svevo." She pays her most profound respects to Leslie Stephen. She kept her faith with Leslie Stephen & his Cambridge. She was his spiritual daughter. The essay is also an attack on Desmond MacCarthy, who had delivered the Leslie Stephen lecture in 1937 on Stephen himself. It was therefore, by extension, an attack on one Cambridge, the Cambridge of the Bloomsbury Connection, by another; it was an attack on the ethos of Stephen's daughter, Virginia, by one of his "daughters", the abominable Dorothy Bussy. It was no accident that the Leslie Stephen essay was preceded just 6 months earlier by a hostile account of his daughters by feminist dad, Three Guineas, called "Caterpillars of the Commonwealth Unite!"

Michael Holroyd's authorized biography of Bernard Shaw in 3 vols. The Search for Love (1988), The Pursuit of Power (1989) & The Last of Fantasy (to be published in 1991). The main curve of Holroyd's design is clear. Shaw searched for love, & never found it. He pursued for power & never possessed it. The former that the latter's fantasy will similarly disappoint. During the Shaws' honeymoon their relations were evidently unconsummated. The subsequent marriage was, by agreement, bland. His income shrunk to £90 by 1902. Dependent on the providing wife-mother. Shaw's later "philosophy of violence" was a product of this sexual & then political neutering." He seems to have settled for a form

of masturbation ("assuagement") as an anodyne for powerlessness. The brief memorandum of his lost virginity at the hands (literally?) of Jenny Patterson suggest that before going all the way the older woman may have forced him to climax. The mechanism for subduing himself "continence" may have come in useful over the next 10 sex-starved years. He was apparently heterosexual, strongly sexed, & routinely had desirable actresses to his casting couch, only to balk at the last minute. He had an incorrigible need to be irresistible to the most beautiful (& promiscuous) women of his age; he went to great lengths — Wellsian lengths — to seduce women, only not to seduce them. He existed in a constant, never-to-be-relieved priapism. Like the Revolutionist's Handbook he refers to the Oneida Community & its utopian practice of "Karezza" — hours-long extended intercourse without climax, supposedly in the interests of perfect Socialism. This priapism is accompanied by an addictive need for publicity & fame. All that mattered was that he should be taken notice of. He positively demanded that Max Beerbohm caricature him. Beerbohm — like Jerome Shaw with his "pallid pitted skin & red hair like seaweed" physically loathsome — duly obliged. On 2 occasions Charlotte was moved to react against the philandering. The first involved Erica Cotterill, the only child of a Fabian colleague & 15 yrs younger than Shaw. Also in her infatuation, offered to bear Shaw's child. Charlotte called the police & broke off with a "terminal letter" actually drafted by Shaw. The other affair that jolted Charlotte out of her normal complaisance was Shaw's "electric romance" with Mrs Pat Campbell in 1913. Mrs Pat had turned out to be a better philanderer than Shaw; she had all the while another lover George Cornwallis-West whom she married.

Duckberg & buggery, with thuggery thrown in
The regime dispensed with any pretence of legality
He made history of sorts by being the first to bleed out of Amin's slaughterhouse.

More & more as the 20th ~~century~~ advanced Shaw found himself not the philosopher King but England's "privileged lunatic". As the war progressed he ~~?~~ himself in one of his later wartime speeches, he declared that "his one wish was that he should first beat the Germans"
The war saw the end of Shaw as a serious voice on public affairs
When Christopher Sykes, lunching in a London Restaurant with Waugh (then in his Mid-forties), seemed likely to delay a day or so before letting him have a look at memoirs he coveted, Waugh "began to yell in the manner of a two-year-old child, gurgling between ear-splitting ululations 'I-WANT-THE-BOOK-NOW!'"
Maurice Bowra was keen on formulating himself with the private lives of students whose company he favoured ("piloting them through the shoals of adolescence"). Cyril Connolly put WD & HReward Bowra reaped from his cultivating of lonely young aspirants was Anthony Powell's mocking portrait of him as the devious don Silleny in A Dance to the Music of Time. Another was Waugh's withering depiction of him as Lomygrass in Brideshead Revisited.

T.L.S., Sept. 15-21, 1989

The earliest recorded painting to deal with the subject of slavery was painted as late as 1788, the year George Morland exhibited "The Slave Trade" at the Royal Academy. Until the subject of slavery & its abolition existed as a social question, it could not exist as a subject for the arts. In 1790 Morland painted a pendant, "African Hospitality", which sets the kindness of black natives to a shipwrecked British family on the African coast. In "Fruits of Early Industry & Economy" of 1789, Morland sets his scene in the "fruits of a prosperous importer surrounded by the good things in life. But the title directs our attention to a basket of grapes & peaches carried into the room by the black

Dennys.
As Secretary to the Maharajah of Chhatarpur, J. R. Ackerley was able to supply Forster with some extra "Copy" for A Passage to India. He also turned his experiences with Tukojirao Maharajah into a comic novel, Hindoo Holiday (1932), one of the few pale & humorous writings to win an enfeebled favourable review from Evelyn Waugh. His writing was hampered by his inability either to be explicit about his homosexuality — which would of course have carried legal danger — or to disguise it with a veneer of heterosexuality, as Christopher Isherwood managed in his early books. He disliked being pursued by other homosexuals, suffered from premature ejaculation, & was repelled by the body smells that emanated from his lovers. After his father's death in 1929, he discovered the existence of a second family — a mistress & 3 daughters — whom the father had clandestinely maintained for many years. His Alsatian bitch Queenie came to him from a lover named Freddie. Forster was upset when this creature walked in & their lives, & Siegfried Sassoon was highly displeased when, during a visit from Ackerley, the dog defecated on his beautiful carpets. Nancy's reaction to her brother's dog was insane jealousy. She called Nancy & Ackerley Bunny "my human bitches"
Lydia Lopokova had been one of the stars in Diaghilev's ballet company & had married the company's accountant Randolfo Barocchi. Taking her under his wing, Maynard Keynes installed this penniless Russian refugee in Gordon Square among his old Bloomsbury friends. The intellectuals in

* Vanessa Bell's last Keynes might be "forced to choose between me & Lydia"!
The campus rifts were skirmishes by the Beats.

Gordon Square dated to her with a unanimous shudder. Indeed, Virginia
herself led the pack. Disparagement lasted down the years. "She brought her
jewels at Woolworths for half a crown." Petties, malice & snobbery were
the hall-marks of Bloomsbury. Keynes was pure "Bugger-Bloomsbury", to use
Virginia's phrase. He had stolen Duncan Grant as a lover from Lytton
Strachey, for which he was hardly forgiven. His puppyish crushes on women & homo-
sexuals like Rupert Brooke were often exposed to friends. Then Lopokova
entered his life, he was regularly picking up boy prostitutes as well as lead-
ing the usual affairs with Cambridge contemporaries or pupils such as
Sebastian Sprott. No doubt the critics in Gordon Square had a preco-
cious wish to know exactly what was going on. Both Keynes & Lopokova
indulged in anti-semitism. They do appear to have been happily married.

TLS Oct. 6–12, 1989

Why two books on George Kennan? Why, in the past few months, three
books plus at least one more in the pipeline & one for on the drawing-
board? What is there about Kennan that threatens to turn into a cottage
industry? The "father of containment" is the label that springs to mind.
His influence on broad policy was, at best, peripheral. Had Kennan not
existed in 1946 t, American policymakers might have invented him. Americans
frustrated & confused by a world in which the infinite promises & allure of tech-
nology & science have not solved all our problems, a world where good intent-
ions have become the paved road to hell! Kennan is elitist at best, hypocritical
at worst.

Baudelaire: "Voici le soir charmant, ami du criminel, / Il vient comme un complice, à pas de loup; le ciel / Se ferme lentement comme une grande alcôve, / Et l'homme impatient se change en bête fauve."

"A. Lipson, *On the Look-out*: I was taught literature by the light of Bradley & Saintsbury but learned it by the light of Eliot & Pound." The "Shakespeare Trade Union" closed ranks against A. L. Rowse. The "undistinguished professor" (not mentioned by name) who had scholed for all seasons, Hany Levin, who contributed the introduction in lieu of Rowse to that highly successful edition of *The Riverside Shakespeare*.

"There is no one by whom I should prefer to be sponsored in Germany rather than yourself," wrote T. S. Eliot to E. R. Curtius on Jan. 19, 1927. Behind Curtius's view of Eliot as a modern classic, which status by Alexandrian technique, lies the influence of Aby Warburg & his insight that "Athens must always be confronted & speak from Alexandria". On August 30, 1930, Curtius again hitched the star about the canon: "With the sole exception of T. S. E. (whom I don't count as English literature), I find nothing the slightest touched that I've read of Virginia Woolf is charming, but no more. Both in *Orlando* & in *Mrs Dalloway* I can't stand a certain lady-like Non-committal attitude I like genuine ladylike Unverbindlichkeit. Huxley is ... not the equal of Proust or Larbaud. Lawrence is a Ruskin in reverse, with a brutish prophetic solemnity." Curtius decried the Barbarization of contemporary culture in *Deutscher Geist in Gefahr*, was viciously censured by the Nazi regime. He was invited by Eliot to pronounce-ment on Goethe in the course of radio broadcasts to Germany: "This meant the formal exclusion of Goethe from Europe, but also the exclusion of Germany from her language & culture!" "Did Plato like a legislator or Parnassus his judgment shows that criticism can also be an expression of politics;

TLS, Nov. 10-16, 1989, p. 1259: In European literature & the Latin Middle Ages Curtius made clear his dislike & the ideology the Christian epic & disliked he extends to Tasso & Milton, whose object rich & fulfilled man was incompatible with Curtius's ideal of Germanism. Eliot remained morally close to the Calvinist-inspired 39 articles. Marked the Optimism of the German Enlightenment & by Goethe, Curtius, at the end of his life, "discovered" & embraced

Eliot sent him an emollient letter, promising to "make some amends" — his essay on "Goethe as the Sage" in 1955. Curtius detected in Eliot's later criticism "a Nigerian Hall can go to the extreme of a sterile negativism & beyond."*

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The fact that the book Heidegger et le nazisme (1987) by Victor Farias, a university lecturer who teaches in Berlin, first appeared in France after the MS had been rejected by several publishers in the Federal Republic suggests that some pains to repress the Heidegger case. Yet at the University of Freiburg, two historians, Hugo Ott & Bernd Martin, have devoted a considerable time to research work on Heidegger. After the posthumous publication of Heidegger's The Rectorship from 1933 to 1934: Facts & Reflections (1983), Ott, in his Martin Heidegger: Unterwegs zu seiner Biographie (1988) has cast doubt on many of Heidegger's claims concerning his attitude to the Third Reich. Martin's Martin Heidegger und das Dritte Reich concentrates on Heidegger's activities in the context of National Socialist policy towards Universities. Even before 1933, Heidegger had made contact with Nazis through the leaders of the National Socialist student movement. His rectoral address went down well with the press & even with Party periodicals. His later contention that the Party violently disagreed with its contents is not true. As early as 1938, the address was included in an anthology edited by Ernst Forsthoff. In his speech to German students on Nov. 3, 1933, he declared: "The Führer alone personifies German reality & German law now & in the future." The most senior Party member the American transcendentalists, Thoreau, Emerson & company who believed in the perfectibility of the soul: In order to Curtius, Eliot would have been well advised to remember an observation in Wilhelm Meister: "A woman should keep her learning more secret than a Catholic confession of his faith in a Catholic country."

The characters change their names arbitrarily & circle like insects

among professors at Freiburg the classical scholar, Aly, in a memorandum to the Ministry in Karlsruhe dated April 9, 1933, described Heidegger as the Nazis' confidential agent.

TLS, Oct. 13-19, 1989

In her obituary portrait of Proust in Nov. 1922, Elizabeth Bibesco tells the story of the distinguished lady who was very keen to meet Proust. "Monsieur Proust, vous écrivez?" (smiling down (if he loved you he smiled up), "Peu, rarement, difficilement, jamais." "Comme vous me, respectez peu," she exclaimed triumphantly. "Moi, j'écris très facilement." Afterwards Bibesco asked him about it, "Heureusement elle m'a parlé de ses livres et pas des miens".

Much of José Ortega y Gasset's work was devoted to the problem of the Modernization of Spain by "Europeanizing the Pyrenees" & opening the country up to European culture. When, during the Civil War of 1936-9, Spain did become a central concern of European intellectuals, Ortega, critical of the political trajectory of the Second Republic of 1931-6, missed the boat. It was "Don Quixote Picasso", as Picasso called him, with his caricatures of Franco, who became the head of the anti-fascist left. Catalan & Basque demands for autonomy did not represent a nationalism based on race, language or historical memory. They met merely a case of particularism. As a consequence of "particularism" Spain was but a conglomerate of closed compartments. To invent a true function in war, the Spanish army was a "loaded gun without a target". Without hierarchy societies simply do not exist. He was influenced by Dilthey whose works he carefully annotated. His defence of the select individual is an extreme version of J. S. Mill's concern that democracy might enthrone "the mediocrity" & "the many". "Nowadays to be different is to be indecent!" The crucial question

Must be: who constitutes the creative minority on whom, for Ortega as for Hill, progress depends? The ~~ex~~leisure to take the larger view is the distinguishing mark of the select minority. The Rebellion of the Masses makes uncomfortable reading. Modernization for Spain meant Europeanization. Spaniards "swallow German culture whole". The masses might make such a mess of things that they would force the "historical necessity" of docility & accept the leadership of exemplary men. In his Dehumanization of Art he suggests that the emergence of abstract & advanced literature, incomprehensible to the masses, might bring them to recognize their inferiority. The music of Stravinsky & the plays of Pirandello are sociologically useful in that they force them (the "people") to recognize themselves for what they are. The "old politics", "the empire of the lie", survived "in the same way as the ~~stay~~ elephants stay standing after they die". He was attacked in the Socialist journal Claridad because "his philosophy was that of the fascist minds had fed". The forces that supported Franco showed him "deference & respect". He dismissed both Fascism & Bolshevism as stupid movements of mass men manipulated by Mediocrities like Mussolini. He ~~was~~ advocated "liberal democracy" & regarded fascism as a "false dawn".

Denis Mack Smith's revolutionary study Cavour & Garibaldi 1860 (1954) caused an outcry, & polemical debates went on between his supporters & the anti-Mack Smithians. Cavour was revealed as an unscrupulous trickster; Garibaldi retained his qualities of heroism & naivety & acquired others, such as moderation & statesmanship, formerly attributed to Cavour. The success of his ~~next~~ book, Italy: A Modern History (1959) made Mack Smith the historians equivalent of Pasternak or Lampedusa. Italy & Its Monarchy views the

Risorgimento not as a heroic national struggle but as "a civil war between the old & the new ruling classes, a movement not of the popolano but of an élite". It reveals that the Italians lost more men in a single day against the Abyssinians (Adowa 1896) than in the entire Risorgimento. Bellicose remarks about shedding blood & the need for empire, made by the first two kings & several prime ministers, sound as if they had been jotted by Mussolini. Victor Emmanuel II, "a vivre & a voir", despite his military competence, had cherished extraordinary delusions of his capacity as a general. His diplomacy continued Cavour's tradition of inciting Paris & Berlin to attack each other with assurances of Italian support, but included a novel plan to ally himself with Austria against both the French & the Germans. In 1915 Victor Emmanuel III & his ministers followed the usual policy of encouraging both the Germans & the British. The only important consideration was that the Italians should fight on the winning side (though only after their allies had done most of the fighting) & acquire territory from the losers. No people – least of all Sicilians – would have appreciated Jack Smith's suggestion that their inability to think ahead was reflected in their dialect's lack of a future tense.

Robert Baden-Powell emphasized honesty & charity & service & devised the Boy Scout's obligation of the daily Good Turn.

TLS, Oct. 20-26, 1989

Martin C. Battestin & Ruthe R. Battestin, *Henry Fielding*. The habit of pairing writers artistically does doubtful service to most of those thus yoked together. The pairings are as familiar as chalk & cheese or Scylla & Charybdis. The habit sustains a great deal of piecemeal nonsense.

Homer is Original & Virgil civilized; Shakespeare is spontaneous & Jonson correct. Tom Jones Dudden followed Thackeray in praising Fielding as "pre-eminently a manly man". With such friends Fielding has not needed many enemies. From within the cult of manliness, its occasional high priest Johnson noticed the possibility of mere swagger, the sort of posturing that goes with being Ernest Hemingway or Norman Mailer. Ever since Henry James denounced omniscience & Dickens-how-many thousands of teachers of writing took up the cry, everything has seemed worthwhile & perfectly right with showing, especially by varieties of indirection. But Fielding, inimitably, was the greatest of tellers, visibly working miracles, lecturing us like a favorite uncle, chuckling, cajoling & finally winning his readers a warm farewell. He actually was a magistrate. On the one hand, there is the Fielding who was the amiable exponent of benevolism & a benign view of human nature; on the other, the Fielding who believed that only terror averts the breaking of the laws. The dedication of The Modern Husband (1732) is an embarrassment to Wilbur Cross & Dudden, being addressed to Walpole in the lavish style of the insolvent author hoping to hook a patron. Notwithstanding the gentility of his origins & his Etonian schooling, there is not easy to distinguish from your average Grub Street hack or picaresque rogue. Dudden realizes that in fact the dedication was certainly "ironical", as Cross has suggested. A chronic spendthrift & head-to-mother, Fielding seems to have seized his literary success as an occasion for running ever deeper into debt. His imprudence might be ignored if he believing that this was, after all, how the upper

-crust of Hippocrates & Galen[s] "(Cunctatio Fundi, VIII, 94, 124)

*"Ophthalmiator Pontifical Imperial & Royal"; **Do awarded by Basle, Liège & Cologne etc. **James Graham, the impresario of celestial beds, Electronic Shock Doctor & Mud Baths. Johnson's friend Robert James's famous Fever-Powder. Johnson's friend Robert James's famous Fever-Powder. ~~Military Science & Light-Horse Volunteer~~

Capes declared.

Roy Porter's Health for Sale: Quackery in England 1660–1850. In the Mask-of-place & the Jacket is due to come into his or her own. The "legitimate" practitioners of Hanoverian England used much the same regimen, pharmacopoeia & publicity techniques as the outsiders. They too patented medicines, endorsed pills, prescribed on hunch & in hope. Even the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians had scarcely more reliable diagnostic* tools than their unnamed forbears. Once up the fringe operators made real advances in therapy or surgery, for example the so-called Chevalier John Taylor* in treating eye defects, widely Strabismus. When Radcliffe purged like Galen, & Graham** had the knack, who then was the physician, who the quack? The irregulars were quite as successful in their treatment as were the Licensed Professionals—both sides showed empirical results. "Quackery was really all one, even Methodism with quacks it was publicise or perish."

Gerald du Maurier described himself as "the lowliest of the low-brows" Richard Kurt Kraus, Pianos & Politics in China: McTonans welcomed the piano as a "highly respectable piece of furniture" Fou Ts'ong's father surpassed James Mill in the cultivation of a gifted son. Party despots & valley boys.

TLS Oct. 27–Nov. 2, 1989

The Irish chose to divert themselves by playing certain popular roles: licensed jester, stage Irishman, drunken clown. Flann O'Brien derided Yeats & his colleagues in the Abbey. He attacked Synge as "a moneyed dilettante" of Sainte-Beuve: "Gros Patin": "La guerre n'était pas seulement alors entre les médecins et les chirurgiens, elle était aussi entre les médecins et les apothicaires... Quand on se sentait malade, on s'adressait d'abord à l'apothicaire, qui prodiguait des compositions; le médecin n'était appelé que [sic] ... il [Patin] veut déchaîner la médecine [i.e. modern medical researchers who began to question the auth-

coming straight from Paris to study the peasants of Aran, not knowing a syllable of their language, then coming back to pass forth a deluge of homemade jargon all over the Abbey stage." In 1941, Irish cows were peculiarly sacred. His attitude to Joyce was shoddy. When the reviewers of At Swim-Two-Birds noted that the book was heavily in Joyce's debt, he was disgusted. In his later fiction, his determination was to travesty Joyce. Ulysses is at bottom a 19th-century realistic novel about a handful of characters in Dublin, not free from Joyce's own particular kind of conscientiousness; At Swim-Two-Birds is a farce of inconsequence.

In 1899, the French sculptor Louis Ernest Barrias completed an allegorical statue for the Conservatoire National de Arts et Métiers. Entitled "Nature Unveiling herself before Science," the statue depicts a beautiful young woman, her breasts seductively bared, who raises her hands to remove the layers of veils that conceal the rest of her body. As Ludmilla Jordanova, Sexual Visions: Images of Gender in Science & Medicine between the 18th & 20th Centuries, points out, the feminine is much more likely to be associated with the mysterious or enigmatic; she acknowledges the pioneering work of David Kaiser's Professor Morris Zapp, on the interminable striptease of the text that "unveils itself before us, but never allows itself to be possessed." Nature is represented as a woman performing a striptease before Science. We can't imagine Nature unveiling herself tragically before Science. Nor, more to the point, is there a companion figure called "Science Looking at Nature". Nor should Science have to be a male, & fully clothed; & while the eyes of Nature are lowered in modesty or shame, the gaze of Science would be

cold, direct & keen, the penetrating gaze of intellectual & sexual mastery. With Romanticism came the appearance of the image of the female corpse being dissected

TLS, Nov. 3-9, 1989

Marx, the scourge of the Utopians, was himself a utopian at least to the extent that his vision of communist society was that of a stateless, self-governing community.

Coleridge: "Yesterday Mrs Coleridge miscarried — but without danger & with little pain... So very ill with the Fever, that she could afford no Nourishment to the Thing which might have been a Newton or an Hartley... I think the subject & Pregnancy the most obscure of all God's dispensations.... & the pangs which the Woman suffers seem inexplicable in the system of optimism — Other pains are only friendly admonitions that we are not acting as Nature requires — but these are pains most horrible in consequence of having obeyed Nature..."

Edgell Rickword was the guiding genius of the *Calendar of Modern Letters*, which published a series of "Criticisms" on contemporary writers (Rickword on Barrie, Muir on Bennett, etc). F. R. Leavis, never one to throw praise around, always acknowledged his debt to Rickword as editor & critic. He joined the Communist Party in 1934. He wasn't Rickword the dreamed of lefty young men, young comrades, or who gamelessly wondered why, when you left a communist, you felt small. In the period of the Cold War, Rickword was himself not out in the cold. He lived a hand-to-mouth existence.

For Raymond Williams Culture could be divided from its Mountarian citadels & recognized as the way we live, on the Oxbride. Culture meant a state of grace which had once been attained in a few English country houses. Tradition use not to be seen no longer as heritage or birthright but as the active selection of antecedents in the culture of the present. The Country & the City demolished F. R. Leavis's "Organic Community" When asked to write an article on "My Cambridge", he began it blandly with the protesting remarks that "It was not my Cambridge" He nursed a long-standing grievance against theoretical anti-realism & modernist criticism which has universalized Modernist alienation as the last word on human helplessness. His maddening habit of insisting on the need for specificity, in the most unspecific manner.

Who really killed the British Labour Party? A number of prime suspects point the finger at Harold Wilson: "His short-term opportunism, allied with a capacity for self-delusion which made Walter Mitty appear unimaginative." His malicious intent is not in doubt, but no one caught him with the smoking gun. Even as our witness & experts gather & pronounce the corpse is beginning to twitch. When Labour has been in office it has been the right, not the left, that has been in power.

"Be as radical as reality itself", Lenin urged the young Dada in the Zürich coffee-house, advice Dutch Democrats as "Remember to take a look out of the window"! Drugs are an integral part of American ordinary life. When the sheriff recently attempted to close some massage parlours on the grounds that they were in fact brothels, the local women's groups reacted angrily, denouncing

Gavin Ewart: "Good light verse – is better than bad heavy verse / any day of the week". Janet Todd, Dictionary of British & American Women writers 1660–1800 (1984).

this assault to the right of women to control their bodies. The capitalist world is in crisis too.

TLS, Nov. 10–16, 1989

Johnson, after reading the work of Hester Mulso in the 1750s, remarked that "he never before had any opinion of female poetry." Women, dazed up the house wifely virtues, were inclined to underestimate their own performances. "I am as pleased by adjusting a tulip or a butterfly in a right position on a screen, as of wonderful theories", wrote Elizabeth Grove in the 1730s. From Anna Seward's Original Sonnets of the 1780s & 90s Wordsworth seems to have stolen many of his characteristic devices, including the use of the slightly crazed exclamation point. Misanthropic jests & anti-marital laments. Courtship & Marriage were seen as gambits designed to reduce women to servitude. "Wife & Servant are the same / But only differ in the name" (Mary, Lady Chudleigh). Female power lay in "sexual refusal", e.g. the rebuff-poem in Jane Cave's useful "Eliza for a Maiden Name": "at the altar I've found a grave".

Virginia Woolf made no secret of the fact that she had been sexually abused as a child by her half-brothers George & Gerald Duckworth. Her nephew, Quentin Bell, is more open about George's "fondlings & fumblings in public", but keeps hidden the length of time that Virginia had to endure her tormentor. What Virginia called her own & her sister Vanessa's "sultry & opaque life" led Vanessa, in time, to marriage with the philanderer Clive Bell, whose neglect of home & hearth would have made Odysseus blush, thence to an affair with Roger Fry, & finally to a second marriage to Duncan Grant, who

"Remembrance of Times Missed" [paper in publ.] a 1940s joke: he built up a huge financial empire based on nothing but pleasure & not air.

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does not interested in her brother Adrian than he was in her.
Like Frederick Ralfe, Graham Greene seems to find the past congenial but the faithful, including even the head of the Church, intolerable. In a letter to The Times in 1967: "If I had to choose between life in the Soviet Union & life in the United States of America, I would certainly choose the Soviet Union". One hopes that a drink of too many Vodka may have been responsible for this "trivial letter". "I wonder whether this kind of honesty without conscience is really to be preferred to the old hypocrisy"
Hong Kong is a kind of transit lounge for floating population. The reason why these thousands of Chinese wish to come is precisely the reason why many Hong Kong Chinese wish to leave: none of them wants to live under a communist regime
Eliot's championing of Donne in his review of Grierson's anthology of the metaphysical poets appeared in the TLS on Oct. 20, 1921. Grierson's edition of Donne had appeared in 1912. There were earlier modern editions (Grosart's of 1872, Chambers's of 1876), & even a booklet of Selected Poems as early as 1904. The myth that Donne was summoned from obscurity suddenly, by Eliot's review, is firmly embedded as the cornerstone of a good deal of false history & history. Gosse in his Life & Letters of Donne in 1899 wrote that "the Modern appreciation of Donne seems to begin with Robert Browning"
"Just as our children, & their children in turn, will be affected by the Chernobyl disaster, so the spiritual injuries of communism will be left for generations!" Side by side with visible poverty is striking wealth of the ex-Nomenklatura. The Western academic visitors to China during

its brief thaw, and a Gaullist who under the Maoist period had regaled them with the usual propaganda's absurdities. "You deceived us", they accused him. "Yes, I did," he replied, "but you wanted to be deceived."

T L S, Nov. 17-23, 1989

From Rousseau to Sartre, whether on the right or the left, French intellectuals have instinctively shared at least one article of faith: individualism is dangerous. Even the liberal tradition, from Tocqueville to Aron, always had modern individualism as a second-best solution in politics. Today, after the decline of the political left, & the ageing of Mitterand's pantomime socialism, individualism is once again a matter of intellectual dispute in Paris. Gilles Lipovetsky's L'Ère du vide: Essai sur l'individualisme moderne might be mistaken for a tardy rehash of the American debate over Modern "Narcissism" or "me-generation" in the late 70s. "Le jerk est un autre symptôme ... avec le jerk toutes les contraintes des figures codées tombent, le corps n'a plus qu'à s'exprimer et devenir ... langage singulier ..." In La Pensée 68 (1985), Luc Ferry & Alain Renaut pointed out that the French student uprisings of May 1968 marked the beginning of a new, self-involved age. In short, they concurred with Lipovetsky: the "me" generation was born in 1968. But rather than see that period as the inevitable product of "post-modern" capitalism & democracy, they located its roots in contemporary French philosophy, represented by the Gang of Four: Derrida, Foucault, Lacan & Pierre Bourdieu who, respectively, worked Heidegger, Nietzsche, Freud & Marx respectively.

In L'Ère de l'individu (1989), Renaut dates up there La Pensée 68 left off. Modern individualism, according to Renaut, does not begin with Descartes's cogito, but with Leibniz's monad. Nietzsche is just "Leibniz without God." Renaut has great difficulty reconstructing a history of subjectivity uncontaminated by individualism.

Haiti is not a regular beat for news reporters. Events there are usually covered through paradigms of journalism. When something dramatic happens, journalists arrive in planeloads. Voodoo, the religion of 90 per cent of the Haitian people & a kind of Roman African Catholicism of 18th-cent. French Catholicism!

Keats's juvenile poem "Summer": "Sumner? & after Summer what? Ah! happy they that know it not, / Would that were so it might be so."

In a sense Barnum's genius did not die with him & has indeed become a permanent feature of modern industrial civilization. He could turn Jenny Lind into a megastar before anyone in the U. S. had heard her sing a note; he could trap the Duke of Wellington into acting as straight man for Tom Thumb; he could develop such a craze for the elephant Jumbo that a new word entered the language. His genuine White elephant from Siam was not pale enough for the purists, who preferred a rival showman's pinkish Whitewashed pachyderm.

Government by expert? Let's treat its citizens as hungry for what they stick, frankly, call the truth.

b.f. London Rev. of Books, 11, Jan. 1990

TLS, Nov 24-30, 1989

Attilio Bertolucci, an important Italian poet, may be read more as the father of two film-director sons, Bernardo & Giuseppe. La camera in letto, a long autobiographical novel in verse, runs to two volumes. Unusually for an Italian poet, he looks to English & American models — to Wordsworth, Hardy, Frost & William Carlos Williams.

The Mongol Empire continued to expand after Genghis Khan's death for a further half-century, until it encompassed the entire land mass from Hungary to Korea, India & South-East Asia except the Near East. The Mongols contrived, uniquely, to hold simultaneously both the Eurasian steppe & the sedentary lands of China & the Muslim Middle East as far west as Syria.

John Hay, brought to France in 1872/1921, proved the first Chinaman in living memory to return whence he came. A middle-aged widower who worked as a gate-keeper to the Canossa establishment of the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, he seems to have been both physically repulsive & intellectually weak. The ambitious Jesuit Father, Jean Francois Fouquet, returned to the West to win over his ecclesiastical superiors to his views on the congruence of Chinese religion with Catholicism. He needed a servant to help him work on his Chinese mss. During the voyage, Hay began to exhibit alarming signs of mental disorientation. Fouquet perceived that the little Chinese whom he had imagined would be his passport into high society had become a millstone round his neck. He acquired a royal lettre de cachet & dumped his ill-starred servant-acolyte, manacled, into the monastery of the Brothers of Charity at Charenton, alongside dozens of lunatics, social misfits & religious freaks. Only in 1725 was Hay released &

packed off back to his homeland. Jonathan Spence's The Question of Hu contains a plethora of might-have-been's which make clear that fabrication in places takes over on the Ma Jiaxing established pact.

TLS, Dec. 1-7, 1989

[Lunbing]

Dan Quayle's English is unfailingly hilarious: "this is heart rendering" was his reported reaction to the Exxon oil spill.

In the birth myth of Sea Sara, Coleridge was bemused by the phenomenon of a girl-baby: "GIRL! I had never thought of a Girl as a possible event — the word IS Child & Man are perfect Synonymes in my feeling." She rarely saw the father whose task she was to spend her later life editing.

The Germans have long had a reputation for liking hard work; indeed, there is even a special German word Arbeitsfreude, to denote the pleasure or joy of work. Ideas about work they in: "a playful unwinding of all our energies". Craft romanticism took hold in Wm Morris. The Nazis backed this tradition up with the "Strength through Joy" & "Beauty of Labour" schemes. The ideology of "German Work" reached its apogee during the Third Reich.

TLS, Dec. 8-14, 1989

Historians have always been unwilling to recognize that history itself, even in this literate age, concerns actions & words rather than the written record; somehow they seem to think that history is what is in the documents. Pre-literate societies have traditionally been classified as "prehistoric," the domain of some other set of experts such as archaeologists or anthropologists. Oral history is

The day may be far in the future when the press would adopt the self-propagating imagery of the plains man's Vade-mecum & his Small-book to Boot.

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a recent & unexpect invention of local historians & Marxists, whose methodology is imagined to be concerned mainly with the proper use of tape-recorder in the field. Oral tradition, the handing-down of information from one generation to another, is even more suspect, a game of Chinese whispers played between parties capable of any distortion, in which the model is the famous example of "Lend reinforcements, we're going to advance" becoming "Send three or four pence, we're going to a dance." The chief problem of accuracy in history was how to control eyewitness accounts, which as Thucydides recognized might be individually unreliable, but were ultimately the only source of information. As for oral tradition, Herodotus perhaps somewhat naively believed that what was reported to him was, if not true, at least worth repeating. The anthropologist Jan Vansina pointed out in his famous work of 1961, Oral Tradition, that oral tradition is a chain of testimonies, preserving statements in precisely the same way whether they are true or false; what is important is not truth, but accuracy of transmission. An important projection of this accuracy is the existence of a professional group of "remembrancers" or memory-men, whose duty it is to preserve particular traditions. "Every tradition has a purpose & fulfils a function."

With the rise of mass-tourism, museums, & old pilgrimage shrines are jostled & crowded by shops & bazaars which offer coarse & pathetic plaster, alabaster or plastic copies of the great masterpieces within.

Psychological investigations have challenged the assumptions of rational motivation of the established legal code. Moral arithmetic (if the punishment fits the crime) is replaced by psychological analysis (What shaped the criminal personality?)

The featured speaker at the conference was Allan Bloom

T. L. S., Dec. 15-21, 1989

His assumption that all his readers share his command of Latin is flattering but in truth unappealing.

Nowadays film people talk about "LA": tower-blocked sprawling Los Angeles is where the action is. Hollywood is just another suburb, like Beverly Hills or Santa Monica. The old studios are still standing, but no longer citadels of power. The moguls who ruled them have disappeared, & all their happy days of Empire. Yet the mere name "Hollywood" still evokes romance, & might radiate but impenetrable. The early American film industry grew Jewish in ownership & authorship. Hollywood's dream factories came to exist through the ambition & entrepreneurial flair of a small group of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. They were colleagues & even friends; but they were above all competitors (this was, after all, America), & always ruthless. Samuel Goldwyn's original name was Schmuel Gelbfisz. Jewish-European they were born; American they made themselves. Television, at first despised (as sound had been), became a lethal competitor. The "Goldwyn touch" became a synonym for "Quality." The famous "Goldwynisms" ("Include me out" etc.) were often the invention of an expert publicity department. He might insist on Emily Brontë's novel "Wuthering Heights" — but he made the picture. Were the unions of American heiresses to British peers like sales exchanges of dollars for status deplored by the journalist W. T. Stead who coined the phrase "gilded prostitution"? With increasing numbers of Trans-Atlantic marriages came a certain mutual resentment. The American press thundered against "purchased" foreign husbands. While Britons, in turn, sent American girls as "poaches" of eligible native fractions.

TLS, Dec. 22-8, 1989

In a culture we appear to devalue dreams; we consider that the most boring thing a guest can do is to relate the night's dreams over breakfast (psycho-analysands forming a special little enclave of their own). Other cultures & periods generally have taken dream-life as seriously & related it to waking life, often in a premonitory sense. Among rational people it was what might be called the "cheese" school of thought that was favoured (dreams mean indigestion). The original research breakthrough came in the 1950s when, by recording electro-encephalograms of subjects asleep in the laboratory & periodically waking them, it was discovered that we have several dreaming periods throughout the night. We all dream every night, & when we talk of a "dream" we mean a fragment captured on waking. Harry T. Hunt, Multiplicity of Dreams surveys such research work done in sleep laboratories in the U.S. Dreams can shade over into reverie, or odd thinking. Laboratory conditions probably freeze spontaneity just as they freeze most human attributes when they submit them to measurement. A Freudian has to wonder, when a dream "means" what it says on the usual opposite. Tantalizingly ambiguous. Ex-post dreams like good gardens learn to foster exotic blooms, e.g. Saint-Denys, Les Rêves et les moyens de les diriger.

A footnote in Richardson's Clarissa: "He [Lovelace] alludes here to the story of a pope, who, (once a poor fisherman) tho' every prospect he views, from that of the Cardinalate, hung up in view of all his guests, hinted, as a token of his humility. But, when he arrived at the pontificate, he took it down, says, that those who no need of the net, when they have caught the fish" (Penguin ed, p. 863 n). This is perhaps the source of Browning's "The Pope & the Net."

Towards the end of his last book, Sincerity & Authenticity (1972), Lionel Trilling observed in an urbane parenthesis that "it is characteristic of the intellectual life of our culture that it fosters a form of assent that does not involve actual belief".

We were all taught in our philosophical cradles that Hume held that causation is, with the exception of a mere psychological addition, nothing but regular sequence. Galen Strawson's The Secret Connexion: Causation, Realism, and David Hume seeks to show that Hume held no such doctrine. What is a sceptic? A sceptic is one who suspends judgment. He may suspend judgment to the extent of suspending belief, or he may only suspend the claim to have knowledge. Hume was a sceptic only in the second, more moderate, sense. In epistemology & metaphysics, he had a lot of time for ordinary beliefs such as our belief that there is a material world. He observes that philosophical disbelief in a material world vanishes when we leave the study. Like inductivists, that all we ever observe is regular sequence, he commits himself to hidden forces, connections, causes which are responsible for the observed regularity. He assumes that there is more to causality than observable regular sequence.

Vincent J.L.S. June 29-July 5, 1990

Van Gogh is a pathetic figure, bleedingly his patient brother Theo for money for bread & paint, distractedly incapable of family and relations, women, incapacitated by absinthe & venereal disease. Even the nice letters are alarming in their obsessive humourlessness. In London as a schoolteacher he was already deeply involved in a kind of vocation as a preacher. In 1876 he preached a sermon at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Richmond, taking as his text Psalm 119:19. He became

Minister in the Bonnaze & tried to become an imitation of Christ, giving away all his ~~of~~ clothes & opening at the mines during the frequent explosions. He was much influenced by Zola's novel La Faute de l'Abbé Mouret

The UN is a grotesque body, with its bloated, overpaid agencies providing jobs for the boys, its emasculated Secretariat & a Secretary General responsive to the slightest whim of the Super powers. The not set in at the beginning with the appointment as first Secretary General of the shallow & insignificant Trygve Lie, who barely concealed his anti-Americanism & was quite open in his disdain of the British. He betrayed his trust abominably in allowing the FBI to carry on a witch-hunt, at the behest of Senator Joe MacCarthy, among the American members of the UN Secretariat

As a lawyer, he has an amazing knack of missing the point of the case. If it comes to a choice between Mr Belcher & Mr Moorman, I am tempted to recall the observation of Dr Johnson on the respective merits of the two poets, "Sir, there is no settling the point of precedency between a louse & a flea" To let John Vincent to Disraeli is like giving a pyromaniac the run of a fireworks factory. While devaluing Disraeli as a practical politician, he gives him credit as an ideas merchant.

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Umberto Eco: One may push continuity & similarity to their limits & state that there is a relationship * between the words Rule & the noun cockade because, in addition to rhyming, they both appeared in that sentence. But the difference between these interpretations & paranoid interpretation lies in recognizing that this relationship is minimal. An excess of wonder leads to overestimating the importance of coincidences. The conspiracy sort of

Jeffrey K. Bruce, To Die for Germany The Nazis highjacked cultural motifs for their own ends. Goebbels tried to order festivals to the occasion not for Hermann, but for Goethe's birthday. Celebration for resurrection in the Nazi pantheon. State funerals, for war heroes were sacred rituals attended by the Nazi high & mighty. They were all designed to hammer home the message.

Popper-like principle, according to which if there are no rules that help to ascertain which interpretations are the "best" ones, there is at least a rule for understanding which ones are "bad." As soon as a text becomes sacred for a certain culture, it becomes subject to the process of suspicious reading & therefore to excessive interpretation. This happened to Homer, to Virgil to Shakespeare, & it is happening to Joyce. From the second half the 19th cent. upto now — Gabriele Rossetti, Eugène Aroux, Giovanni Pascoli until René Guenon — Many critics have obsessively read & reread Dante's Opus in order to find in it a hidden message. Every reference to extra matters & real people is to be interpreted as a coded invective against the Church in the dialectic between the intention of the reader (intentio lectoris) & the intention of the text (intentio operis), the intention of the empirical author has been disregarded. There are cases in which the author is still living.

JKS, July 6-12, 1990

Michael Oakeshott's writings are an eloquent warning against "short cuts to heaven" But F. A. Hayek & other grave-diggers of Socialism are apt to be put off by his desecration of economics His opinion of the modern political rationalist: "like a man whose only language is Esperanto, who has no means of knowing that the world did not begin in the 20th Century!"

Astrological & Numerological considerations, a fetish, for instance, for the lucky number 9 (hence the 18—1+8—September Crackdown & the 27—2+7—May 1990 election date), weigh heavily in the Burmese Military dictator Ne Win's political decision making. In May 1865, Darwin (now aged 56) jotted down some notes about a subject that was of sacrifice. But, after all, glorification of dead in war is hardly a German phenomenon alone. Allied "re-education" encouraged a collective amnesia. The spontaneous combustion of post alcoholic

"therapist" — "the rapist" (the American psychologist Carl Rogers's outrageous pun).

on his mind: his ill-health. "For 25 years extreme spasmodic daily & nightly flatulence: occasional vomiting ... shivering ... dying sensation ... " He was permanently worried about his own stomach, & when his daughter Annie died from "almost bilious gastric fever", it put his neurosis into overdrive. He even felt guilty about passing on his "wretched stomach" to his children. When Academics across Europe were showering Darwin with honours the Zoological Section of the French Institute held aloof because "the science ... of his books ... is not science, but a mass of assertions & absolutely gratuitously hypothesis ... "

Nasty in human relations is impossible, e.g. the alleged love-affair between Freud & his sister-in-law Minna Bernays "But there are times when dogs do not bark because they have nothing to bark about" (Peter Gay)

726 Until the Romanian revolution in December, every typewriter in the country of 23 million people had to be registered each year at a local Magistrate's Office. Owners had to bring their machines into the county judiciary headquarters, and, under the eyes of a member of the secret police, type on a single sheet of paper, every letter, number, punctuation mark & diacritic on the keyboard. The registrar would also have to type a short assigned text, which changed from year to year, but focused on the evil inherent in imperialism. The security police would use these forms to trace dissident typescripts. The control was total. Hence, the Romanian that exploded in December was virtually without any sort of underground opposition movement.

two of our other contributors. We approach the publishing do's, & the seamy, & the three quarters of the way through his autobiography

~~233~~ Spectator Review, Aug. 1960 is a frightened sadist who

In Lady Chatterley's Lover, Lawrence speaks in the accents of a traditional misogynist with a genius hatred for women. He believes in the supremacy of the "phallic Mystery", the "strange potency of manhood". Through Mellors he advocates female submission. His hatred of women is subtly concealed, & through Mellors he advocates English supremacy over the Jews, Negros, Orientals. His sexism has been criticized by Angela Carter, Germaine Greer & others but his racism has yet to be detailed. The naivety, pomposity, aesthetic stupidity & callousness of Lawrence's prejudices & attitudes to G. G. Hough, Noel Annan, Richard Hoggart et al seem almost criminal. A. Montgomery Hyde, ed The "Lady Chatterley's Lover" Trial.

Fledglings

Literary Review, June 1990

Fledglings from our review have made their nests on the mighty Sunday newspapers which pay 10 or 20 times our standard fee for a review. Our magazine does not represent a threat to any of them in their circulation wars. Many collectors, in a last act of spite or self-glorification, arrange for their collections to be preserved for all time as monuments to themselves, or presented to a nation which has seldom, if ever, done enough to deserve such a gift. As I read through the list of Bradley Martin's sale, my eye was caught by a vol. of poems written by Rev Stephen Spender as a young man at the age of 18. It was expected to fetch £10,000–£15,000. When one thinks that the vol. did manage to get published in the course of 80 yrs, the mind boggles at the thought of an unpublished Spender poem. But £10–£15,000 is serious money by anyone's reckoning. It is not as if all the ingenuity & effort which went

For Christians, death is the Big Event. Much else itself is mostly an hors d'oeuvre.

into the invention of waste paper baskets has been in all vain.
Even during "L'Epuration", the revengeful bloodbath which shadowed De Gaulle's March into Paris, Frenchmen hastened to heap the blame of the deportation of the Jews upon the Nazis. The implementation of the Final Solution in France was possible because the Vichy government & the French police not only collaborated with Adolf Eichmann's officers but seized the initiative & delivered more Jews to the railway yards than even the SS expected. The French officials who had worked closely with the SS were exposed by Serge Klarsfeld in the wake of the Barbie trial. Among the incriminated was Rene Bousquet, France's national police chief in 1942 (described by Himmler as a "precious collaborator") & his representative in Paris, Jean Leguay. The SS staff in France never exceeded 2,400 personnel. The French deployed 10,000 police for a single round-up of 13,000 Jewish children were selected & arrested by French police & delivered to the astounded SS officers who had stipulated a minimum age of 16 for arrest. As Dorothea Macchus, the gangster boss recently gaped after peeking into the cattle trucks in Poland. Pétain's complicity in the Holocaust because of the ~~nation~~ tradition of anti-Semitism among the French military, though the frustration from an interview or a document can be provided. But Allen researchers have also failed to find Hitler's signature on any document ordering the Final Solution. Those who successfully climb over in politics rather as frequently carry it with them. When a name is comparable to a flip of a pen.

"The Romans had eight-day weeks & the Incas nine; Mesoamerican cultures had a 20-day week."

formerly a priest

David Rice, Shattered Vows: Exodus from the Priesthood. Case-histories of the girl who "had sex" in every rectory in town", of the housekeeper who was employed to care for the parish priest, slept with all three priests in the presbytery concurrently; of the priest who cried out every time he had intercourse, "Thank you, God, I never thought it could be like this!" Mexican bishop to elderly priest: "Don't you get lonely out in the sierra!" "I have my rosary," says the old padre. "But what about the long winter nights." "I have my rosary." Bishop asks for a cup of coffee, & elderly pastor calls into the kitchen: "Rosary, would you bring out the coffee for the Eminence?" The future for the Roman ministry seems bleak indeed. Most leave either to get married, or get married as a consequence of leaving. Most priests "don't take celibacy seriously anymore"—even among those who stay in the priesthood. In Third World countries, it is widely accepted that priests have a common-law wife. The first apostles were married men & indeed St Peter had some trouble with his mother-in-law. The American psychologist Rogers is credited with inventing the permissive society: "If it feels good, do (act) it."

Froude,
One of the original founders of the Oxford Movement, R. H. Froude once said that the Reformation had been a bad setting of a broken limb—before it could be mended properly it would need to be broken a second time.

is served publishers with a kind of Damoclean intensity
Words hyped by literary power-brokers working hand in hand with the money-bags.

Literary Review, July 1990

A circular personalised letter from the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Patrick Neill under the banner "Campaign for Oxford". Rupert Murdoch was inspired to give £3 million to endow the Rupert Murdoch Chair in Language & Communication. I seriously contemplated applying for the job when the post brought a further circular from "Campaign for Oxford": "Teaching & research in the Faculty gives (sic) enormous pleasure, & for (sic) the evolution of the language" etc etc. On the evidence of this document what the University needs is a general crash course in remedial English.

On the Road by Carolyn Cassidy, the Matron-Muse to the Beat Generation, is a book to read in tandem with Kerouac's *On the Road*, Ginsberg's *Howl*. She opened the door of the room she had been sharing with her lover Neal Cassidy. She found him in their bed, the teenage bride Stash was supposedly divorcing on his right & Allen Ginsberg on his left: all were naked.

Harold Norse, *Memoirs of a Bastard Angel*. The most detailed section is that on Auden, who apparently made, & then made off with Harold's college lover, Chester Kallman. The next best recent parallel is *Famous for 15 Minutes – My Years with Andy Warhol*, by Mike Pinkel, where every single slogan, image or presentation by Warhol is claimed to be after a private suggestion by her. This book is about a man unable to come to terms with the fact that he does not matter.

She has had her ups & downs. Some of her ups have been the result of her work; some of her downs have been bad luck.

Marquis de Sade, The Gothic Tales. "Room for Two" tells of a ménage à
trois, in which an attractive married woman takes two young lovers, one between
4 & 5 in the afternoon, & the other between 5.30 & 7. Naturally appointments
overlap, & one surprises the other in the bedroom. Pulling herself together
& assuming a "look of innocence" she proceeds "What
is usually beneath", his flatulency is quickly dispersed by his mistress saying
he takes his place "in what's left to you; you can easily see there is room
for two".

Literary Review, Aug. 1990.

The plight of Sir Angus Wilson, penniless & helpless in a nursing home at 76, should
have stirred the conscience of us all. Only the Royal Literary Fund
stood between him & absolute penury.

Women have never had it particularly easy in Russia. In Tsarist days they
had to get permission from their fathers or husbands if they wanted to travel
abroad. Even today women are barred from church services. Those days
at home, "petty housekeeping" gives them 40 hours a week less time than their
husbands. Gynaecology is anathema. There is no contraception so women
rely on abortions, the national average being 14 per woman. Women give
birth there in a room, attended by one midwife. A German feminist on
women's biological need of men: "When I want milk, I don't buy a cow".
As Mary Wollstonecraft lay dying she turned to her husband & exclaimed "Oh
Godwin, I am in heaven", to which the atheistical & pap-eaters philosophers
quickly replied: "You mean, my dear, that your aspirations are a little easier".
But it was Mary Shelley who came to consider how to educate her son, the spirit
of revolt had been well crushed. "Oh God, teach him to think like others." Well-

Stonecraft wrote coolly before her death: "A husband is a convenient part of the furniture of the house."

Parliament is the High Court of the Nation, but the Government can refuse to answer any Question on Grounds of disproportionate cost. (In MP's refused information about Britain's contribution to NATO. Got it in hours from Washington: a friendly Senator looked it up in the Senate Library. Peter Laurie's Beneath the City Streets details the 10-mile-deep Securitate-style network of secret Government Shelters & tunnels near London. The French secret service, Which boasts of its outrages, gets away with far more Mayhem than MI6 ever does, because one secret crime exposed makes you look Sillier than a hundred openly admitted. The Duke of Westminster owns many thousand houses & sails serenely on, While Honecker is shot in Double-Decker he had one Villa — but the Villa was a secret Which leaked. Maybe what we need is leaky secrecy.

Far from keeping out the 21st century, Communism succeeded only in laying a blanket over it. Now the blanket has been stripped away & religion & consciousness of history have all returned, as if from a long sleep.

In her hormone-fuelled novels, Erica Jong shows that for senile dementia is raging out of control: Leila Sand (44) frotts with orgasmic frenzy each time the scrounging Dart (25) with a Microchip penis roars up on his motorbike. "Bearded men have cuntlike mouths, perhaps this is why they so love to eat pussy: it is like kissing themselves in a mirror." "Let me tell you about his cock. It is clavilike & allumeuse, a true prong... the curve of his cock. Angry & red in erection, circumcised, curving like a

* of TLS July 6-12, 1990, p. 733

[illegible] ... his battering ram of a cock into the [illegible] & I reach orgasm again & again & again" Melvin Bragg. A Time to Dance is very much along the same, if more muted, lines.

D. H. Lawrence* "You must drop all your democracy ... There must be a ruler: a Kaiser ... The People must Calvinize in an absolute Dictator. At one time or another Lawrence was hysterical about women, but when it came to violence he really let up. He was in reality a viciously violent man. Frieda had abandoned the children of her first marriage. She missed them. Lawrence's response was to beat up their photographs & dance up & down the pieces. He beat her & pulled out her hair. He kicked & struck his bull terrier. The animal's fleas. If had become "sex alive" — that is, on heat, had copulated — "Must control him." Joyce: "He can really write very badly."

The first singer to appear on the stage in the costume of the pierrette, or streetwalker, was Eugénie Buffet. Jeanne Bourgeois, who took the stage name Miss Tinguette, soon conflated to Mistinguett, achieved lasting fame with la valse chaloupée. Her version of the de rigueur costume, black tights, fishnet stockings, high-heeled shoes with ribbons criss-crossed up her calves, has rendered an instantly recognizable uniform ever since. In the valse, danced with an apache, capon one side of his head, handkerchief knotted at his throat, she & her partner would eventually come to blows. Her partner was no good, he stole her money & beat her. But what could she do? She'd got him under her skin. Her greatest song, Maurice Yvain's Mon homme. Her memoirs, Toute ma vie (1954). Colette: "Paris ne sait plus qu'une chose: l'éternité de Mistinguett. Elle est propriété nationale."

The attenuation of the Open days

Encounter June 1990

J. S. Mill, *Principles of Economy*, bk II, ch. 1, sect. 3 on Communism: "After the means of subsistence are assured, the next in strength of the personal wants of human beings is liberty ... The Question is, Whether there would be any asylum left for individuality of character; whether public opinion would be a tyrannical yoke; whether the absolute dependence of each on all, & surveillance of each by all, would not grind all down into a dead uniformity of thoughts, feelings, & actions ... No Society in which eccentricity is a matter of reproach can be in a wholesome state. It is yet to be ascertained whether the Communistic scheme would be consistent with that multiform development of human nature, that many sided excellence ..."

"All on a razor's edge it stands, / Either woeful ruin or life" (*The Iliad*). That has been a metaphor for the human condition since Adam & Eve were shunted out of the Garden of Eden.

Robert Elegant, *Pacific Destiny*. Jamaica is immense by comparison with Singapore: 4,684 square miles against 243. "When I first saw Jamaica," Lee Kuan Yew said, "I thought to myself: if only I had been given an island this size, what could I have done with it!" He created a brutally efficient industrial mini-power that is virtually free of corruption. His great-grandfather had come to Singapore as an illiterate coolie to re-enact the classic success story of the overseas Chinese. The Lees were Hakka, which means "guest-families". Most of the Chinese population came from Fukien, Borneo & called themselves Hokkien. Harry Lee could get along in the Hakka language, but his Hokkien was rudimentary. He reverted to his Chinese name to make his anti-colonial position unmistakable. He began to study Mandarin, abused the Communists (led by Lim Chong Seong) & then discarded them. Dennis Bloodworth has recounted

the Sanskrit Singapura, "City of the Lion."

Lee's adroit strategy in The Tiger & The Trojan Horse (1987). Although he had exchanged Ambassadors with neither, the Communists maintained a Trade Mission in Singapore, & the Nationalists an Information Office. The Chinese Communists also set up their cheap labour under the guise of "Hairdressers," & the Nationalists helped to train his troops. He has, somehow, created a new Singaporean consciousness that's so distant from China, although based on Chinese culture. The speech of Singapore is called huaqii, not guanhua or putonghua. English is the working language of Singapore. The material paradise Lee has created is exceedingly monotonous. The Central Provident Fund has forced individuals to save for their retirement — to provide a pool of dollars for retirement. Every working Singaporean must deposit 22-25% of his wages in an escrow account held by the government, which allows withdrawals on stringent terms. Settled by Chinese imported as labourers, Singapore now imports Filipinas to work as housemaids, Thais & Indonesians as construction workers, & Malaysians to collect its garbage. Neo-Confucianism is promoted assiduously to avert the danger of "a fake Western society." So educated men prefer less-educated wives; women with degrees are encouraged not to marry earlier.

When she was 43, Marie Stopes finally did have, by her second husband, her first & only child, a boy. Despite all the care that was lavished on him, he turned out badly in the end, for he insisted on marrying a woman who sometimes wore spectacles. This appalling crime against eugenics was more than Marie could forgive; she cut Harry Stopes-Roe out of her will, for good. His father, Humphrey V. Roe lost his money & his love for Marie. She then sold them out of their house & her life. When Marie was 58 she believed, & let it be known,

Had she was going to live to the age of 200. When she was 70, & puzzled as to why young men seemed blind to her physical attractions, she believed that she would live to be 120 at least. In fact she died at the age of 78. It has been said of such people as Stalin, Mao, & Pol Pot, that Dale there's death there's hope

"Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity" — AV. Ecclesiastes 1.2. "Futility, utter futility, says the Speaker, everything is futile" — Revised English Bible — A sentiment which might well be more appropriate in the House of Commons.

A survey shows that most children do not know the "Red Riding Hood" fairy tale are on the side of the wolf.

The Maltese Arigua-mix. To get white coffee ask for caffe latte (Arabic for milk). So there is the Arabic element that Non Christians pray to God in this devoutly Catholic country, the only available word for addressing the deity is Allah.

Encounter. July-August 1990

How do intellectuals feel about "cold warriors" & "peace fighters?" — about "anti-anti-Communists" & "unilateral disarmers" & "neutralists?" — about the whole controversy over the issues raised by Koestler & Silone in R.H.S. Crossman's anthology "The God That Failed", & later, also by Milovan Djilas? Trotsky dismissed the Soviet collapse in the 1930s: "The dynasty fell by shaking, like rotten fruit, before the revolution had time to approach its great problems." Communism was indeed a villainous con-trick. Apart the frozen eggs & had the omelette, both nasty to start

The Modern Stalinist R. Palme Dutt swept packets of proscribed crowns editorial chair of Labour Monthly on the occasion of Stalin's death. Despite fortune-tyrants was for him his profession as well (as a duty.

Got it at the end of the long day same Lenin's Secret & empty shelves. Is it Wrong to be Right? Chattler revealed in The Invisible Writing (1954) that he had written his Spanish Testament as a Comintern agent, under the supervision of Willi Muenzenberg. K/r Robert Maxwell & others, about Her Majesty to invade Czechoslovakia & Buckingham Palace & compose an harem, Knighthood upon him (withdrawn by the Queen at very near the last moment of the Front to miserable life). The people had very badly decided to live under Communism, or ever would if given a chance. George Kennan later joined with the anti-anti-Communist gang — a motley assortment of appeasers, arms-controllers, deniers-of-reality, etc. — denouncing the fanatics leading the world toward a nuclear holocaust.

People have the right to forget but others can choose to jog their memory. Mr Tolstoy's Most memory can be jogged in Chancellor Hall. Under the pseudonym of K.E. Saline, Hill gave a glowing account of the Soviet in Two Commonwealths ~~books~~ published by Harrap in 1945. In 1947 — Mr. Stalin was alive & well — Dr Hill produced Lenin & the Russian Revolution, for him Lenin & Stalin seemed almost to form a seamless web. After Stalin's death, Hill paid him a memorial tribute in a long essay called "Stalin & the Science of History" (Modern Quarterly, Autumn 1953). We are apprised of Stalin's "influence on Marxism" & learn also that he was "a great & penetrating thinker".

Alexander Cockburn, seeking to whitewash Stalin in the West, states that the total number ranges "only" between 3½ & 8 million. Both Pravda & Izvestia officially indicated that the figure for

* p. 274; Philip Wiener, ed Selected Writings of C.S. Peirce N.Y. 1958, p. 402, 300-324, 183, 221, 377-78

Stalin's victims was close to 50 million, not including the war dead
The anti-Communists were dead right about the totalitarian tyranny
stewing in the juice of its own decay ideas.

In "German Pessimism" 1875 Henry Wm James put it eloquently. "The existence of a Walt Whitman confronts Schopenhauer as the existence of a Leopardi refutes Dr Pangloss" (Collected Essays & Reviews N.Y. 1920, p. 17). He obviously had not read Whitman's "A Glimpse of War's Hell-Scenes". The linkage between pragmatism & the notion of happy progress is scarcely a logical or necessary one. Charles Peirce's philosophy flowers in a fascination of pragmatism with pessimism. Truths concerning themselves, & the universe might conceivably impel people to destroy themselves, yet the scientist's devotion to his discovery would lead them inexorably (Cp. Chance, Love, & Logic ed M.R. Cohen, pp. 129-30) Herbert Spencer, the philosopher of evolution, had as early as his thirties reached the conclusion that life was not worth living & never changed his mind on this point: "If pessimism means that you would rather not have lived, then I am a pessimist" (Facts & Comments, N.Y. 1902, pp. 172-3, 185-7; David Duncan, Life & Letters of H.S., 1908, II, p. 137; "The Coming Slavery" in Spencer, The Man vs the State ed D.G. MacRae, 1969, pp. 118-9). Peirce never took seriously Dewey's attempt to conjoin pragmatism with democratic, political optimism. Truth, concerning themselves & their universe might conceivably impel people to destroy themselves, yet the scientist's devotion to his discovery would lead them inexorably (Cp. Chance, Love, & Logic ed M.R. Cohen, pp. 129-30) Herbert Spencer, the philosopher of evolution, had as early as his thirties reached the conclusion that life was not worth living & never changed his mind on this point: "If pessimism means that you would rather not have lived, then I am a pessimist" (Facts & Comments, N.Y. 1902, pp. 172-3, 185-7; David Duncan, Life & Letters of H.S., 1908, II, p. 137; "The Coming Slavery" in Spencer, The Man vs the State ed D.G. MacRae, 1969, pp. 118-9). Peirce never took seriously Dewey's attempt to conjoin pragmatism with democratic, political optimism. Truth, concerning themselves & their universe might conceivably impel people to destroy themselves, yet the scientist's devotion to his discovery would lead them inexorably (Cp. Chance, Love, & Logic ed M.R. Cohen, pp. 129-30) Herbert Spencer, the philosopher of evolution, had as early as his thirties reached the conclusion that life was not worth living & never changed his mind on this point: "If pessimism means that you would rather not have lived, then I am a pessimist" (Facts & Comments, N.Y. 1902, pp. 172-3, 185-7; David Duncan, Life & Letters of H.S., 1908, II, p. 137; "The Coming Slavery" in Spencer, The Man vs the State ed D.G. MacRae, 1969, pp. 118-9). Peirce never took seriously Dewey's attempt to conjoin pragmatism with democratic, political optimism & his chief memory of Dewey was that as a moralistic graduate student who had quickly dropped out of Peirce's course in Scientific Logic at the Johns Hopkins University.

Pavlovian & Marxist theory has each individual as a tabula rasa, a clean slate upon which society made its distorting impress. In a Communist state (which is the highest society) it is inconceivable that mental illness can be caused by social factors.

TLS, March 2-8, 1990

At the time of her suicide in 1941, Virginia Woolf was a distinguished writer, but the extent of her subsequent fame could not reasonably have been anticipated. Leonard was generally solicitous after death in safeguarding her reputation. "Dear Mr Lewis," he wrote in 1965, apropos her comment that To the Lighthouse "is not a popular novel": "The book was published 38 years ago & has sold 253,362 copies in Britain & America since publication." To J. C. Stobart in 1923: "I expect you have heard that, having failed as (a) a civil servant, (b) a novelist, (c) an editor, (d) a publicist, I have now sunk to the last refuge on which stand Jack Squire, Desmond MacCarthy, Edward Shanks, & Penguin — I mean journalism." Inch by inch, the very intensity of the long-range epistolary bombardment from Stracheys, with its insistence that Woolf participate in his enthusiasm for Duncan Grant, forced Woolf to reveal the gulf that was opening. An intimate relationship, Hale Lary rather than sexual, with Virginia. The Woolf family were not invited to the wedding. "Nine tenths of the Trade Unionists even are not socialist," he assured Julian Bell in 1935. Even in 1920, he claimed that, while not anti-Bolshevist, "I can't help seeing their faults & mistakes which, if persisted in, will undo the good they've done." "There is no such thing as the key will be such a thing as dictatorship

of the proletariat. A dictatorship is a dictatorship of dictators." He was fearless in his criticism of Ringsley Martin: "Just never say what is true." He taught that the Left's double standards impugned its own professed convictions.

Sir James Mackintosh became a lion on the strength of a book he had yet to write. On his return from India he had begun work on a history of Britain since the 1688 Revolution. Macaulay, who had succeed Mackintosh's collection, was to be haunted by his predecessor's fame yet wrote a book: a salutary warning. Someone said of him: "He would have been a great prophet, but it is hard to say of what."

In Russia if the all-administering, perk-laden Writers' Union becomes dominated by by a group other than your own, what will happen to your cheap holidays by the sea, your means of jumping the 15-yr queue for a car, your chance of a dacha.

Bernard Williams: "It is the same with scepticism as with scepticism elsewhere, that the more general it is, the more harmless."

237 1939
Stalin's Christmas message to Herr von Ribbentrop: "The friendship of the people of Germany & the Soviet Union, cemented by blood, has every reason to be lasting & firm." Whose blood? Now we know the answer in Finland

TLS, March 16-22, 1990

Christopher Hitchens, The Monarchy: "Why, when the subject of loyalty or Monarchy is mentioned, do the British feel a desire to lose every vestige of proportion, modesty, humour & restraint?" His grape-shot mode of attack lists some

desiring targets, wounds some innocent bystanders & leave untouched some of the real villains. One complaint is the "collusion between the hereditary & the judges in Britain." What is corrupting is the Gallup poll, the Kitsch, the tasteless taste of the cult of Windsordom", the obscene Royal Soap opera, the hype, the antics of the Yahoo royals. He believes that all this is an inevitable accompaniment of constitutional monarchy. Much of the blame, if blame there is, might be put rather on some of the fallen Hitchens's own journalistic Dade. Politicians, pop-stars, actors, those who are famous for being famous are all grist to this particular mill. The industry is not a royal monopoly & would not grind to a halt without royalty. If Royalty is supposed to sustain the conservative ideology, it seems at the moment to be doing the job rather badly. Old Toryism can barely retain a foothold in the Conservative Party, & British society is characterized more & more not by an excess of sensibility but by a shortage of civility, not by over-concern with continuity & stability but by contempt for the past & indifference to any future but the immediate. Hitchens lived in America & expressed the dominant transatlantic view of this country — anachronistic, class-ridden, interesting as a heritage museum. What the Queen herself does exercise the royal prerogative powers but the government of the day. Some such prerogative powers are exercised, either constitutionally or extra-constitutionally, by executives in republican regimes. Who in America "declared war" on Japan after Pearl Harbour or on Panama recently. A republic need not be democratic, hence the often-expressed fear of an "imperial" or "monarchical" presidency in the U.S. Nor is an

the age of rapid travel & continual exposure to the media.
Leaders with disciples have a duty not to block their own egocentrations to
those who trust them.

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equivalent lunges in Britain & the emergence from overbearing monarch: the parallel
to the President is clearly not the Queen but the Prime Minister. Mitterand joins
in the Mockery & Epp Thatcher's reference to herself as "we", but the wonder
thing is that, if the "we" was a sovereign "we" rather than a regal "we",
her claim to the plural may be as good as the Queen's. She can say with
some plausibility, "L'Etat c'est moi." The non-regal monarchy. Perhaps
the Queen's speech to Parliament, in which she is forced to identify herself with
her nominal government, might be abandoned
When Marcel Duchamp drew found the found object & founded the
practice of constructing the mobile eyeblenders that led to a complete
school of avant-garde (largely dire) Kinetic artists. By inserting chance into his
aesthetic he established an aleatory alibi for many a more sloppy haphazard
artist. He invented the dated artefact (the bottle rack used & redistributed
Mona Lisa) & the pseudo-document. He devised in fact an arsenal of
anti-explosives that proved capable in the strong hands of purveyors of
amelioration for various fake avant-gardes. To aggrandize the trivial,
he employed learned deliberate, always laborious
"Tutti Francesi sono ladri — Non tutti ma buona parte". Napoleon seized
the most ~~elaborate~~ celebrated Monuments from the places he conquered,
so that France should be sovereign in all the arts. This aesthetic booty
was to be displayed in a Musée Central. He sent back the artistic treasures
of Italy back to France by the wagon-load. He was not an art-lover.
If the two which goes to make up the event of literature — author, text, reader —
the latter [sic. last] has always been the most grossly underprivileged in

traditional critical discourse. The 19th century saw the heyday of the author, & Close reading the literary work was thought to be the best way; in the early 20th century New Criticism dethroned this Olympian figure & set up the autonomous text in its place. From the 1960s onwards, a new critical movement moved to restore to the passive, patronized reader his or her true dignity as co-creator of the literary work of art. Wolfgang Iser & his so-called School of Constance formulated "reception aesthetics" or "reader-response" theory: It is the literary work itself, in the final analysis, which guides & controls the reader's sometimes struggles, for if this were not so ~~the search for~~ reception theory would collapse into an extreme subjectivism exemplified by the work of Stanley Fish, for ~~that~~ whom everything in the text, right down to the semi-colons, is a function of reader construction. The answer to the question "What is being interpreted?" must remain forever a mystery for Fish & his i/k, since any answer could only consist in another reader's interpretation. Reception theory tells us less how to read than what happens anyway when we do so. Auden's squib: "To the man in the street who, I'm sorry to say, / Is a keen observer of life, / The word intellectual suggests right away / A man who's unfaithful to his wife." For all their modernity in other fields, where the status of women was concerned, Ellis & other writers were closer Victorians, wedded to the notion that woman's true role was motherhood. Ellis's description of Eleanor Marx's corpse.

T.L.S. March 9-15, 1990

Is one talking politics or talking science? Biology for Mr. Lewis as an instrument of reaction. But the moment the name identifies the polarity of such a

manducare, it falls under the influence of a second muddle: the idea that we must all be alike in order to be equal. Discussions of gender & sex find themselves between Scylla & Charybdis. The banane is masculine in French — *boudin-gorge*; the *patisserie* which fits inside it is feminine. So too is the *vonvon*. But the access to it, the vagina, like the penis, is masculine. In the languages of the Finno-Turko realms are gender-neutral, & the invitations of "chair-" & "ombudsperson" need never arise. Is the world more equable in such cultures than in our own?

Destroying whatever slim chance he had of bettering his standing in the academic world Nabokov refused collaboration with the doyen of American slavists of the 1950s, Roman Jakobson. He found Brodsky's poetry "flawed by incorrectly accented words, lacking verbal discipline & overabundance of words in general". He debunked *Doctor Zhivago* as "deep, cloudy-sugary-seek". His correspondence with the publishing world before the arrival of *Lolita* is an exercise in moral resilience; his letters are left unanswered, his opinions ignored. His ultimatum to his biographer, Andrew Field, who had fallen from grace: "... blackmail is the word for your threats to publish my informal utterances... I shall not hesitate to sue you..." He placed a heavy smoke screen between his private & public personae. "Although he doesn't consider Solzhenitsyn a great writer, he would never 'cackle' over the misfortunes of that heroic man"; wrote Mrs Nabokov to an attorney. Anden[illegible] sleglen "highbrows & lowbrows, unite!" is "all wrong since true highbrows are highbrows because they do not unite". He rejected many honorary titles: "Socially, I am a cripple. ... Even making a speech at a public ceremony is impossible to me, absorbing

Prince Lévi's good training as a scientist stood him in good stead as a survival technique in Auschwitz.

Face is for a good atheist."

246 J. P. Russo, I. A. Richards: His Life & Work. He devoted most of his life & energies to causes, such as the introduction of Basic English, which have left scarcely a trace. At Harvard, where President James Bryant Conant supported his project, he was affiliated to the School of Education & never even invited to join the English department. Basic English with a vocabulary of 850 words was remarkably well received. Ezra Pound protested that he needed a few more: "Gimme 50 more words & I can make Basic into a real literary & rule-droppin' language, capable of doing Dante to hell." Richards was "the World Ambassador for Basic." His least successful, or most ridiculed projects, was his proposed set of special punctuation or diacritical marks to indicate such things as irony, redefinition or purpose. "Obviously we should never have left Cambridge for America," Aldous Huxley concluded. He spent six weeks at the Walt Disney studios & proposed a television series of Plato's Republic in 22 episodes (which never made it to the screen). His reputation in literary studies seems overblown.

D. J. Enright on the Oxymoronic morality in Japan: "The [Japanese] unbridgeable chasm between an exquisite sensibility towards the arts & a stolid insensibility towards human suffering was just a little more than a Western sophisticate myself could accommodate." "mendicant professor": "We make our own path start."

Marguerite Duras's recurrent alcoholism & periodic efforts at drying out; her improbable love affair at 60 with an unstable young homosexual.

TLS. March 23-29, 1990

The "Velvet revolution" of Nov. 1989 in Czechoslovakia

Kropotkin always disliked the phrase "propaganda by the deed" & in later years was at pains to disown it. But he was firmly in favour of acts of violence under appropriate circumstances. "Propaganda by the deed" came to embrace: small-scale peasant revolts against village authorities, symbolic acts of civil disobedience (such as parading a red flag through the streets of Berne); sabotage & arson carried out by workers against their employers, political assassinations, & finally (in its most degenerate version) any criminal attack on "bourgeois" persons or property.

Autobiographers are artful dodgers, best adept at advertising themselves as at concealing themselves. V. S. Pritchett: "the self-loving autobiographer is a man lost, for the moment, in the romance of his own life, who has a schizophrenic skill in splitting into self & adoring paparazzo".

Daniel Roche, La Culture des apparences: une histoire du vêtement (XVIIe-XVIIIe siècle). Tailors & dressmakers, hatters & dyers, shopkeepers & stallholders, second-hand clothes-dealers & rag-merchants all made a living more or less honestly, out of Paris's insatiable desire to be clad. Garments that started their lives in the select world of haute couture would be passed on to servants or would end up on the suburban stall of the revendeuse. Clothing had its own social codes. There was little in common, for instance, between working clothes, where functional simplicity & durability were paramount, & fashionable garments, intended to last briefly before giving way to the next fad. Nor should noble taste for luxury be confused with the fashions of the nouveaux riches.

Wise the clothes to be protective or erotic?

TLS, April 6-12, 1900

John Berryman was never secure anywhere he worked; to others it may have looked like musical chairs, not to him. In 1943, he was pushed out of Harvard into unemployment. He was in & out of Princeton for a decade, between departments, sometimes without one, a lone sheep among penned walkers. He loved long periods of idleness & blissful & frightening self-destructive energy. The Collected Poems of a modern poet should not have an accusative turnstile in front of them.

The Saxon genitive is usually favoured when the quality of possession is ideal ("my aunt's pen" rather "the pen of my aunt"). While the Norman genitive is preferred when the possession is figurative ("the time of your life"; "the day of the locust"). "Swift's style" is his own while "the style of Swift" is that of his imitators who would possess Swift's style in a cloned sense as Swift would the Deanhimself. "Hemingway's friends" refers to those whom Hemingway knew personally during his lifetime, while "the friends of Hemingway" would denote those who defend him whether or not they ever met him.

Clausewitz in the early 19th Century predicted that future wars would be total wars, & the world wars of 1914 & 1939 confirmed his forecast. The nuclear weapon, which, having made a total war unthinkable by ensuring the annihilation of every participant, has struck total war off the agenda of rational policy. The Italian condottieri were horrified when at Ravenna in 1512 cannon proved capable of cutting down 33 men-at-arms rather one

Ball & at Novara in 1513 killing 700 men in 3 minutes. After 1139 the use of the Crossbow was outlawed in battles between Christian soldiers. The interdiction was actually obeyed but when the Turks came on the scene the clergy were unable to put the same sort of limitation on their use.

TLS, March 30 - April 5, 1990.

The spectre of degeneration haunted 18/19th-century Europe. It threatened evolution, progress & a history supposed to point onwards & upwards. David Pick, Faces of Degeneration: A European Disorder c1848 - c1918. Nations, parties, individuals were ~~threatened~~ disfigured by dangerous outsiders who "led off" good people & "poison" their blood: degenerates, cast as "vampires! Such dark beasts do not merely (as Cesare Lombroso put it who is quoted in Bram Stoker's Dracula) seek "to extinguish life in [the nation], but to mutilate the corpse, tear the flesh & drink its blood!" Beginning in the 1820s, a swelling body of literature depicted, romanticised & denounced urban crime & fed fascination with the apparent rise in numbers of the insane, underlined a parallel rise in numbers of the aggressively ill-adjusted, the threat of the classes dangereuses recruited from "unemployed classes laborieuses". Criminals are puny, sickly, scrofulous, deformed, brutish. Alcoholism, cretinism, sterility. Fascinated by primitiveness, evolutionary anthropologists identified homosexuals & aggressive at home, more savage than those to be found overseas. Exposure to revolutionary mobs had convinced not just Taine but many men of good will that they were faced by mad men, & that social revolt cured disorder both body & mind. Taine's talk of delirium

Revolutionary convulsions echoed discussion of mental disturbances in the wake of other revolutions a century before. Tuke by alienists such as Etienne Esquirol & Joseph Moreau. France, like a body subconscious by repeated fevers, collapsed in defeat & revolt. The notion of degeneration was displaced from individual degenerate (cretin, criminal, the insane) to society: disease, moderns' social change was assimilated to biological decay. In England, Ireland appeared increasingly as a malady, likely to infect the English body. The degraded other visibly degrading the society that made them degradation. Degeneracy fed the growing unease with the idea of natural selection as a key to progress. Delinquency was a social blight, hereditarian offenders presented an apparently intractable problem. Theodule Ribot's Heredity (1875) noted how "medical science," by saving the lives of countless weak, deformed... ill-constituted creatures that would formerly have died --- a century ago", lead to hereditary degeneration, commercial debasement, & national decay. Sherlock Holmes pointed out to Watson that if such folk belong their worthless lives, "What sort of society must our descendants become?" Dread of national deterioration exhausted with the blood-letting of the First World War. "I spread my blood over the centuries," boasted Count Dracula, "& time is on my side." Pick up this unlikely image of parasites poisoning good bodies also provide a clue to fin-de-siècle anti-semitism. Dracula is aided by an unscrupulous Jew. The origin of Nazi dream of racial regeneration through eugenic elimination of "degenerates" & "inferior peoples," is not hard to find. But before

Orwell: "Dickens is one of those writers who are felt to be worth stealing. He has been stolen by Marxists, by Catholics ... The question is, What is there to steal?"

* It was Augustine who maintained that Eve was created primarily for the purpose of reproduction (De Genesi ad Litteram, III, 3,5). The Nazis got down to business, once thousands of mental defectives began to be sterilized in the U.S.

Killjoys have gloried in a gratuitous vindictiveness. The eminent Victorian surgeon Samuel Solly thus deemed syphilis no "evil" but a "blessing", saying that it would never be exterminated. Ever since Eve the line has been that you died, not of ignorance, but of carnal knowledge, that Aetna-contagious disease.

A misogynist will say: "Some of my best friends are women ...") The Church Fathers did not invent misogyny. Of course they did not, always; as far as Tertullian went in fulminating that "God's sentence still hangs over all your sex & the punishment weighs down on you. You are the devil's gate, Eve." Or as Origen went in castrating himself, or even as Augustine went in his horror of his self-moving penis & pollution prone self — or indeed as St Thomas went in saying that women are created merely for reproductive purposes.* But they went quite far enough to build up the formidable Mediaeval tradition — witness the many generations that fed the Malleus Maleficarum.

According to Luther's enemies he was begotten by the Devil: in his mid-twenties depressed, his mother, Margaret Lindemann, had yielded to Satan's advances & had given birth to the Reformer. Luther himself regarded the Devil as highly prolific: he was the father of Aristotle, the Jews & the Turks, the Anabaptists. With Luther, he had a special relationship: visiting, mocking & tormenting him.

TLS, April 13-19, 1990

A blurring of the conventions of fiction, by introducing into the book you are reading a book being written. Takes through William Gerhardie's novels, The Polyglots, Futility, Resurrection, etc. His postumous phrase about Chekhov: "He distilled beauty out of life by seeing the eternal aspect of ephemeral existence". An inveterate womanizer who regarded "every woman's body as his own property for a time." John Rothenstein described Gerhardi: "the tall, ravenly pale being with pale flat face, the high-veined forehead, the pale protruding eyes, the sensual mouth, red as though made up..." He received an invitation to see Lord Beaverbrook. He came, saw, drank champagne & was conquered. He may have thought himself the conqueror. If so he was mistaken - he had hoped for a patron. What he got was an acute slumber who decided he was backing the wrong horse. God's Fifth Column, unpublished in the Writer's lifetime, appeared in 1981, is an odd book in its juxtaposition of Lenin & Oscar Wilde (both were imprisoned in 1895), & in its suggestion of similarities between D.H. Lawrence "unable to satisfy a woman", & Hitler "unable to straddle a horse".

German Ostforscher (experts on the East) fellow-travellers trying to win Nazi government cash by making them "research" dossiers with Nazi aims. A professor of anatomy at the Reichs university at Posen placed his institute at the service of Gestapo. They used his incinerators to burn the corpses of the Poles shot by them. Some Ostforscher were undoubtedly War criminals in a real sense, although most probably never tried as such.

David Barnouw & Gerrold van der Stroom, editors, The Diary of Anne Frank. Critical edition, tr. by Arnold J. Pomerans & B.M. Mooyaart-Doubleday. The humour

the tenderness, the honesty & the psychological perceptiveness of many of the observations
in the diary of the 14-yr-old Jewish girl a universal appeal as a document
humain written in the darkest period of the Shoah, yet one which never succumbs to
bitterness or despair. Yet since the late 1950s the diary has been the object of
increasingly fierce attacks on its authenticity by former Nazis & so-called
"revisionists" who deny the existence of the gas chambers & even dispute the story
of Hitler's persecution of the Jews. In Nov. 1980, following Otto Frank's death,
the handwritten entries in his daughter's diaries between June 12, 1942 & August 1, 1944, were
transferred to the Netherlands State for War Documentation. This critical
edition will conclusively end the controversy. We receive a more rounded, detailed
picture of a 13-yr-old girl gradually growing into womanhood & possessed
of self-observation. The text, relieved of the protective paternal censorship of Otto
Frank concerning Anne's conflict with her mother & her sexual awakening,
feels insightful in its poignancy. From today's vantage-point one cannot only
smile wryly at the prudish sensibility on such matters as menstruation or
two teenage girls touching each other's breasts. The opinionated, assertive
German Jew like Otto Frank, even after the Holocaust, dilutes statements of
his daughter like, "Germans & Jews are the greatest enemies in the world."
With clear-eyed wisdom she writes: "What one Christian does is his own
responsibility, what one Jew does is thrown back at all Jews."

Christopher Millard, Robert Rees's secretary, is routinely incapable of going for
a country walk without vaulting a hedge & leaping a ploughboy.

× Not only did Gibbon paraphrase Buffon's famous sty-lictum on style in his own Autobiography & cavalierly praise their lucid personal Gedanken ("Buffon reveals an amiable personality but cites more than once from the "elegant & philosophic" nay "immortal" author's Histoire naturelle in the Decline & Fall, a lone footnote he grants Buffon as his authority for an Egyptian pachyderm small animal species) it is the big story

Buffon's success invited envy. The salary of Système de la nature in 36 vols comfortably eclipsed those of the Encyclopédie; it reached more widely even than the classics of Voltaire & Rousseau. The high-flyer had started pretty poor. The marriage that his career celebrated between noble status, literary & commercial success & scientific esteem was unprecedented. His experiments in 1779-80 with a so-called miroir ardent, testing the burning effect of glass through the sun's rays, won him the acclaim of a public increasingly attuned to scientific novelty. His management skills were considerable too. Science & business, separated by a light lunch, were the two halves of his daily routine. The labourné of the corridors of power prided himself on his provincial behaviour — Moxellet chuckled at his Burgundian accent, while Diderot quipped at the rustic embonpoint of "the Buffon". He yearned at salon society & Modish theatre-going. Once his audience was secure, he showed little respect for or interest in the numerous academies which clamoured to have him for a member. He enraged the philosophes by seeming to accept the strictures directed at his work by ecclesiastical authorities. Yet by setting a brief auto-critique at the beginning of his work, he was able to have it both ways: he responded with the most lenient treatment. The very ambiguity of the gesture — half-knee-bend to Church authority, or ruse like Jack of Diderot's non-conformity — was typical of his resolute determination to keep his conscience free & to himself. Even those writings influenced some of Rousseau's later work, & who ever projected a joint publishing venture with Rousseau on plants — broke with him over the "revolting" personal disclosures in the Confessions. The tendency to judge his style after examine his ideas has current even among his contemporaries. The age of earth, posited 75,000 years in his published work, is hypothesized at about 10 million.

Most Greatly approached deep in the principal capacity "to unite Minerbey in every country from the Equator to the Poles!

the confinement of addicts in Health Camps, with "Entkeltung Macht frei" over the gate & barbed wire all around

"only the sick man can afford to look poor"

years in his rebirth. The Flood has not allowed to intrude on geological surveys, Biblical chronologies are tactfully edited. Theology is separated from science.

Peace of love in Japan came very close to the European romantic ideal of chivalry, sacrifice, passionateness, & so forth: the love between men & boys, that Gonkano called Kiyabenkido & the Japanese Shudo, the Way of Boy-love. The word Way (as in Way of Tea, Way of Flower-Arrangement) denotes spiritual & aesthetic discipline. The Way of Boy-love cannot be separated from the Bushido, the Way of the Samurai. The superiority of male beauty is based on a very ~~ancient~~ traditional Japanese sense of beauty, called Mono no aware, variously translated as pathos rerum, the sadness of things, the beauty of transience. Ihara Saikaku wrote that "female beauty makes with time, while the life of a young boy is just one day in summer, the day before the blossom comes out!" Ihara Saikaku, in The Great Mirror of Male Love p. 67, Tuttle In the 17th century wrote: "All told, loving a boy can be likened to a dream that we are not even given time to have." The women-hater, a familiar character in Saikaku's tales, brings to mind an Englishman I once heard of. Who, whenever he sensed the presence of female, would whip out a scented handkerchief, put it to his nose, & whisper: "Poison!" One gentleman in Kyoto painted his windows black to be spared the sight of ladies, accompanying the empress to the palace. An old monk, a celebrate, to make the pederast for the old man, warms his pretty bottom over a brazier & fills his anus with vegetable oil, since the old man is nearly capable of doing more than tickling "his arrow between two hills"

Freud's teacher T. H. Meynert, was a confirmed Baconian. Freud read J. Thomas Looney's "Shakespeare" Identified in Edward de Vere, the 17 Earl of Oxford (1920) twice, in 1923 & 1927, & to the dismay of Ernest Jones, was converted His belief was kept secret of the 1935 Ed. English ed. of An Autobiographical Study by the translator James Strachey. Freud finally came clean in a footnote to Moses & Monotheism & the Disavowal of his belief in the posthumously published version of An Outline of Psychoanalysis of 1940.

Gary Taylor, Reinventing Shakespeare: A Cultural History from the Restoration to the Present is an iconoclastic examination of the genealogy of Shakespeare's reputation that advances the now familiar proposition that bardolatry has been a function of conservative political & social interests. "Shakespeare is a literary black hole" who "no longer transmits Divine Light": "We find in Shakespeare only what we bring to him or what other people have left behind. He gave us back our own values". "We have made love to The Tempest so many times that the act of sexual intercourse itself has begun to bore us". As C. S. Lewis once remarked, analogously, of T. S. Eliot's judgment that Hamlet was an "artistic failure": "If this is failure, then failure is better than success. We want more of these 'bad plays'" Taylor's examination of Shakespeare's lack of political & social protest: "a mere technician of language, a verbal satirist the meritocracy ... captivated audiences have become captive classrooms" Bardicide.

Barbara Everett, Young Shakespeare, in expressing opposition to the current dogma of relativism, observes: "We err, certainly, by forgetting that the

I suspect a 5-yr. hiatus. Lost in the mist of time.

poet is not the same as oneself, but we err even more by not remembering that the poet has more in common with us than we think". Philip Brockbank, On Shakespeare: "What is culture specific is not necessarily culture-circumscribed."

TLS, April 27 - May 3, 1990

In 1803, Hazlitt in Keswick to paint portraits, quarrelled with Mary Lamb after she rejected a sexual, & (according to Haydon, summarizing Wordsworth's account) "he gave her petticoats & smote her on the bottom." In consequence Hazlitt was pursued by an angry mob & escaped from the Lake District with the help of Coleridge. The truth is that no matter what happened & how the local people might well have been outraged by Hazlitt's obstinate & loquacious Bonapartism.

TLS, May 4 - 10, 1990

Chancellor Kohl scrambles with an almost indecent haste to write his name into the history books as the second Bismarck. After Charlemagne's First Reich, Bismarck's Second & Hitler's Third, are we now in for a Fourth Reich of equally imposing dimensions & equally uncertain duration? A stampede by the East Germans, their consumerist appetites whetted by years of watching Western German television advertisements. Moltke's victory at Königgrätz was, like most battles, a tale of muddle & confusion, in which the great general was only saved from humiliation by the opportune arrival of the Prussian Second Army, led by the heir to the Prussian throne. "You are now a great man", someone told Bismarck as the Austrians retreated, "but if the Crown Prince had arrived too late, you would be the greatest scoundrel in the world."

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, Letteratura inglese. He disliked Italian centuries of Italian literature, but knew them as thoroughly as he did German & French. He liked English literature — by no means popular in Italy — best of all, & came to regard it as his own private haven. He boasted that he had devoured Sir Charles Grandison as a sort of penance. When he met Emilio Cecchi & Eugenio Montale, two authorities in his ~~field~~ secret field, he was glad to learn that not even they had heard of Martin Tupper, one of his favourite authors. Jack Nelson is one of his heroes: "If Eclipse walked in no Shakespeare, or Donne or Milton or Dickens or Browning. But if you want to know the quintessential Englishman you want to meet him & ignore the others. Neither Hitler nor Mussolini had read him)." A propos The Pilgrim's Progress: "Christian's obduracy & stubborn bravery should have endeared him to Mussolini or the English people much better than his ambassadors' reports."

Terry Williams, The Cocaine Kids: The Inside Story of a Teenage Drug Gang. Driven by machismo, flaunting gold chains & driving large cars. The recruitment of teenagers dates back almost 20 years, & may be seen as a direct effect of the "Rockefeller laws" which demanded a prison term for anyone over 18 in possession of illegal drugs. This led perfume dealers to use children as runners, & cocaine importers have followed suit. "Crack" is not a new drug. It is simply a form of cocaine which has been chemically altered so that it can be smoked. Just as injected drugs may be more likely to produce dependence than drugs taken as a tablet, so cocaine when smoked may be more likely to cause dependence than when it is snorted. "Crack of Doom", trumpet The Sunday Times & the Daily Star; "Crack Crazy", blares the Sun.

487 TLS, May 11-17, 1990

Billy Wilton, Milton's Paradise Visited: "It was the custom on Sunday night for one sider of the dormitory [at Lancing] to visit each other, the purpose — mutual masturbation ... There was a figure that glided from one corner to another, seldom doing anything, just observing. This was Driberg. Francis Rheen's Tom Driberg: His Life & Indiscretions does not dismask or out his subject's self-delusion, cruelty & deviousness & icy calculation. Driberg was an essential part of English Establishment which he seemed to subvert. Nigel West's & Chapman Pincher's subsequent allegations that Driberg was a double agent for the KGB, or MI5, have enabled cholerics to get their thumpers to identify homosexuality with political unreliability. The rickety, lath-&-plaster Masquerade of the English Establishment, & the fundamental hollowness of the Left, also build a popular journalistic expectations on the reducing or defending of it. E. P. Thompson's celebrated description of Chapman Pincher to oppose: "a kind of official manual in which, side by side, high officials of MI5 & MI6, like Lords, Permanent Under-Secretaries, Nuclear scientists, & others, stand patiently waiting in the public interest." Over it, a discreetly camp establishment reigns supreme, epitomized by grave & cardboard "man-eaters". James Callaghan to Woodrow Wyatt: "I was driving back to London with Tom after a meeting we'd been to. We stopped to have a pee on the verge. While I was peeing Tom came up to me & took hold of my penis. 'You've got a very pretty one there,' he said. I got away as quickly as I could." In the 1960s Driberg, ageing past & obsessed by retaining youthfulness through ingestion of semen from rent-boys, decided that the youth-culture could provide a revolutionary new political party. Its

strange Marriage to the unfortunate Eva Bingeld, who had expected a comedy mariage blanc in the interests of the Labour Movement, turned into a political seduction, protracted over years. Queen Beano daringly near Private Eye house style and refers to endurances like Christopher Hitchens & Martin Amis as, respectively, "a dark, wiry heartbreaker" & "a young novelist with a pouting sneer as irresistible as Mick Jagger's." Biberg's doctor advised him: "Use your ill-health as an excuse for long vacations when necessary."

With its 35,000,000 items, the Bibliothèque Nationale is still one of the 5 largest libraries in the world, the other 4 being in Anglo-America. The British Library has put its entire catalogue on CD ROM, but the French will only have one million entries on the line at the end of this year. Four million books & periodicals on the pulp paper are slowly but surely self-destructing in the stacks. Its director Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie has done excellent work to restore the morale & efficiency of the BN, but his budget of 300 Million Francs is only half that the British Library enjoys, & less than a quarter of what the Library of Congress has to spend. Enter here the Bibliothèque de France, a staggeringly expensive project, whose bill amounts to five billion francs last year. President Mitterrand chose a journalist & media personality Dominique Perrault to structure & define the entire project. It is not to be a BN bis: It has to be "plus & mieux." Perrault's package was recently presented as a "rupture avec le champ clos réservé aux universitaires"; a socialist, populist Jeanne d'Arc soon in the place of "l'establishment universitaire". The one thing the New Library has no space for, it seems, is scholarly books. But a "people's library" is a democratic illusion as

France, where only 13 per cent of the population ever use any library at all (against 31% in Britain)

TLS, May 25-31, 1990

There is in the U.S. today a crisis of identity. The Cold War was not only a mask for the ills of American society, but it posed at least a semblance of cohesion. Now everything seems up for grabs: Identity, sexuality, & that deepest of American anxieties, race. Americans have woken up in 1990 to the fact they now live in a genuinely multi-racial society, one in which the White population will soon no longer be the majority & will likely constitute a less than 50 per cent by the middle of the next century. The assimilationist model, "the melting pot", the myth of integrating immigrants, no longer works: A recent cover story in Time magazine entitled "America's Changing Colors" & was emblematic. That country of Whites & Mistreated blacks is gone forever. America is the Magnet for immigrants. The LA United School District offers instruction in almost like 80 languages. California has been transformed from a state that was overwhelmingly White to one in which non-Whites will be a majority by the year 2000. A young Vietnamese refugee is set upon by a gang of Mexican-American kids yelling, "hey man, hey bitch, get out of America." There has always been a strain of thought in Mexico that has viewed California, Arizona, Texas as the country's lost provinces. Among the 125,000 Cubans who made their way in 1980, when Castro announced that all Cubans (Cuban) could leave, were the Florida Boats in a ragged flotilla of sloops & trawlers, as many as 3000 were criminals, dispatched directly from Cuban prisons (as many again claimed to be criminals, this being one of those rare times in history

When Edith ~~caused~~ caused a pimp to proclaim her a ticket to Boredom.)
"Within two years the crime rate in Miami practically doubled. So many of the émigrés were homosexuals, who are ordinarily classified in Cuba as felons (*delincuentes*), though not precisely criminals; and can be rounded & thrown into jail for months.
His rise in the Reagan Administration appears to be owing to his experience. He demanded a memoir if only because of the need to counter allegations made in the memoirs of others.
Edith Wharton interrupts James's facetious reclamation, "unable to sit through another performance". His thank-you letters are comically fawning. Leaving his "couch of pain" for an hour, he adds: "Though the pain in the couch, I am clutching it to my side like a nursing, wailing infant." His "stomachic directions" were brought on by obeying Dr Fletcher's system of chewing one's food to a pulp before swallowing it. Chronic constipation. In 1908 Edith earned £1,098; in 1910, £1,307. In 1913, when Wharton instigated an American plan to raise $5,000 for James's 70th birthday, he was offended & mortified, & a temporary breach resulted. What he needn't discovered was that Wharton secretly arranged for Scribner's to pay him a large advance for his last novel out of her own royalties. She tried to get him the Nobel Prize. He retailed to Mrs Marie Curie's adultery with a French physicist: "Oh 'divine passion of love', what a pity you have to show!" Wharton measured sympathy with his late work & aesthetic principles, & frequently took the opportunity to dissociate herself from him & a writer.

each

Lionel Trilling wrote desperately: "To some of us who do not think of our students as the creators of the intellectual life of the future, there comes a kind of despair... We respond to ideas with... a delighted gliboness, a joyous sense of power in the use of received or receivable generalizations, a grateful wonder at how easy it is to formulate a judge..." Does Dewey's time Most Americans still think their country to be exemplary? During the Vietnam War, many intellectuals (like Noam Chomsky) for the first denounced the USA as immoral. 1

For months David O. Selznick, the producer of the film Gone With the Wind, fought the censors over the picture's most famous line, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn". Joseph Breen finally suggested an alternative, the limp "My dear, I don't care".

Herbert Read: "My coat may be of many colours, at least it is not a turned coat." ~~Such~~ Despite his much-criticized acceptance of a knighthood, Read was outspoken about his anarchist convictions.

TLS, May 18-24, 1990

"What about your Gladstone?" Clemenceau asked Lloyd George during one of the sessions of the Versailles Conference. "What sort of man was he?" "He was a very great man," replied Lloyd George; but Bonar Law, also present as the Conservative leader, promptly added, "He was a very great humbug." Clemenceau relished this exchange: "All great men are great humbugs."

In The Rise & Fall of the Great Powers, Paul Kennedy included a long final chapter which looked forward to the 21st century when there would be "four or five" dominant powers, rather than merely one or two. Besides the U.S.

to defend the indefensible in public.

& the Soviet Union, though both less strong than in the recent past, there would be China & Japan. The 6th position mark was that the 4 powers would be flanked by a 5th — the European Community, now too divided & too inactive yet to be able to pull its full weight. The progress may after be a matter of two steps backward for every three forward.

Post-structuralism has rendered institutionally successful for its own good. Robert Con Davis & Laurie Finke, ed., Literary Criticism & Theory: The Greeks to the Present containing Barbara T. Christian's "The Race for Theory", which registers a black feminist protest against the new orthodoxy ("the shortcomings of the language, its lack of clarity" etc. its strategy of erasing itself only those discourses which deny cultural authority have authority). Peter Washington's polemic Fraud: Literary Theory's the end of English: The "dogmatic scepticism" of radical literary theory. A reasoned refusal to march entirely to a Continental philosophical drum.

Amorbereos, the mediated Condition of Lovesickness, is the subject of Ficino Fernando's treatise of 1466 A Treatise on Lovesickness on erotic melancholy, now ed. & trsl by Donald A. Beecher & Massimo Ciavolella. His French physician depicts patients with uterine fury or satyriasis, finding recorded views from antiquity to his own times.

While Socialism in any radical sense of the term has certainly lost the game, it does not follow that liberalism has won it. In Arab countries such as Egypt, Algeria & Iraq the radical left has been the strongest proponent of secular values & it would be naive to think that its eclipse in the Arab world would be filled by liberalism — far more likely to gain is fanatical religion.

a pseudology entrepreneur & Dana-Sachsgasse hype
included to inflate the book's forced-accent.

TLS June 1-7, 1990

~~Who died of AIDS on August 26 at the age of 46, of complications arising from AIDS in~~
John J. Winkler, Stanford, Calif.
The Constraints of Desire: The Anthropology of Sex & Gender in Ancient Greece. Women like very enclosed lives: "Behind the facade of public docility women had lives of their own & [a] greatly, a more comprehensive understanding of men than men had of women" ("The Laughter of the Oppressed" on the Athenian religious festivals managed by women — the Thesmophoria, Halos, Adonia & Skeira — as a comic commentary on male arrogance & insufficiency). The central distinction in sexual morality was the distinction between active & passive roles. The gender of the object is not in itself morally problematic. Boys & women are treated interchangeably as objects of desire. What is socially important is to penetrate rather than to be penetrated. Sex is understood fundamentally not as interaction, but as a doing of something to someone & the passive recipient is marked by that fact as of lower social status.

A newspaper mogul insisted that 'news' is plural. He cabled a foreign correspondent: "Are there no news?" The reporter replied, "Not a new."

TLS, June 15-21, 1990

Craig Raine on reading Ted Walker: "I was reminded of the joke about the man who invented television — in 1975. It worked but it wasn't very original". T.S. Eliot on Arnold's Marguerite: "a shadowy figure, neither very passionately desired nor very closely observed, a mere pretext for lamentation".

Reuters.

Gide's translation of Conrad's *Typhoon* was severely criticized by André Ry his command of English is impugned (he had only begun to study the language seriously in 1911 by following a Berlitz course & reading *Robinson Crusoe*). His theory of translation — that he followed the "spirit" of a foreign text — is unattributed.

TLS, June 22-28, 1990

Ford Madox Ford. Early marriage to Elsie; affair with her sister Mary; then on to dashing syphilitic Violet Hunt, the Morgan le Fay of Edwardian biographies, who once ravished the youthful Lizzy-loved body of W. Somerset Maugham, thus ensuring his life-long allegiance to Sodom; then the comes the Australian Miss Stella Bowen; then on to Jean Rhys followed by a twilight love with what sounds like a nice American, who survived—survives?

Ford Jacobides ever seem to realize the author's brazen "I" on the first page of The Ambassadors is of course the Master's device to trap them.

Umberto Eco.[666] In 1957, J. M. Castille wrote La hora del lector (The Time of the Reader). It was a prophet indeed. In 1962 I wrote my Opera aperta in which I advocated the active role of the interpreter in the reading of texts endowed with aesthetic. My readers forgot the fact that the open-ended reading I was supporting was actively elicited by (obscuring or interpreting) a work. The rights of the interpreters have been overstressed. Tzvetan Todorov has maliciously suggested that a text is merely a pretext. Once the author brings the work to the readers this work. But if the intention of the author (or any effort to find out it) is irrelevant for the interpretation of a text, the intention of the interpreter (be she Miss Jacobides or Richard Rorty) simply beats the text into a shape that will serve his own purpose, there is one interpreter of the text Hermes is volatile & ambiguous, he is the father of all the arts but also God of the robbers—inventor & servant at the same time.[676] Clearly, ancient Hermeticism shares with many contemporary approaches some disquietingly similar ideas: that a text is an open-ended context where the interpreter can discover infinite interconnections, that language is unable to grasp a unique & pre-existing meaning

Such Writhes posturing

Only mirrors the inadequacy of thought; that language (& the author's) fate is nevertheless redeemed by the reader who transforms the text from an illusion of meaning to the awareness that meaning is infinite; that the Real Reader is the one who understands that the secret of a text is its emptiness. Caricatures (of the most radical reader-oriented theories of interpretation) are frequently good caricatures.

(double-) Vikram Reads, Sept. 1990

a miserable life of dissenter & party yes-man. The market in biographies is crowded! Modigliani's first & (in his lifetime) only important one man exhibition was held in Paris in 1917. When the police saw his female nudes, because they all had bodyhair, they ordered their removal from display. Modi's work is often like a water-down Picasso, cubism made palatable. Modi, a pun on Mandel.

"I learn[t] more in a night in a hotel than I do in any Academy" Lord David Cecil is Desmond MacCarthy's son-in-law. Desmond's wife Molly was a clever girl & he justified his numerous infidelities by having a short love affair with Clive Bell in her face. He was a flamboyant & convoluted, timid & Edwardian homosexual in which his hope was ostentatiously unmasked.

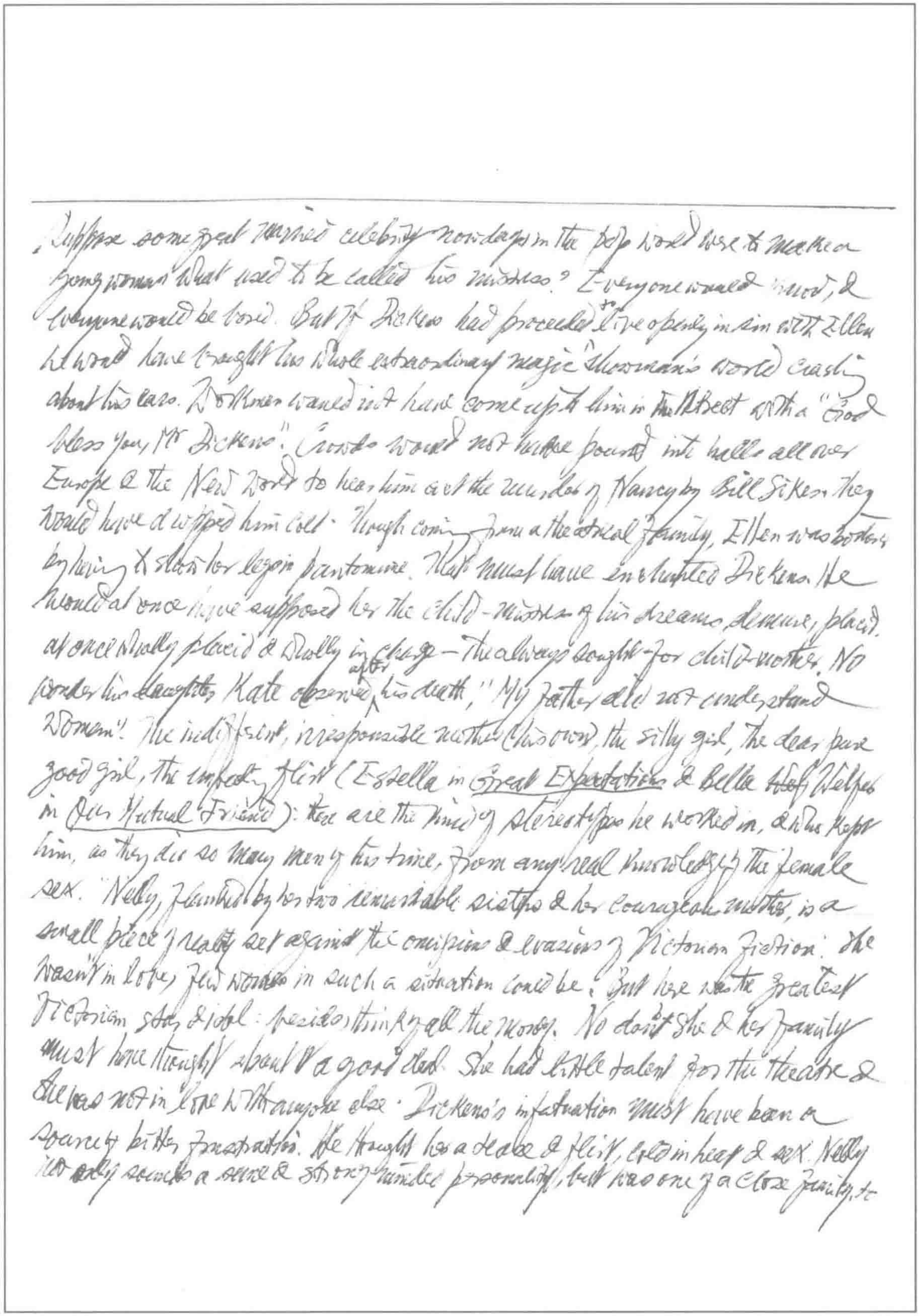
Naomi Wolf. The Ugly Beauty Myth : a cynically cultivated myth to keep women from power & freedom. Women inadvertently play game whose rules have been airbrushed to within an inch of pornography, by Hustler with pubic hairless bodies & patches in the effort to resemble such a template. The age of Professional Beauty Qualification — the dimple that gets you the job, the cellulite that disqualifies. The Holy Oil that redeems you

the calpel that transforms corpses are out there you can get dirt poor. A generation ago the average US model weighed only 8% less than the average US woman. Today she weighs 23% less. A survey of ten-year-old girls in 1989 shows 81% to be dieters. Women consume diuretics, emetics & amphetamines to dissolve the flesh, buy it to a clinic for liposuction of the hospital & dissolve for amputation; they implant silicon in their breasts until they become rock hard & shudder & undergo dermabrasion when the skin is frozen stiff & scarified with wire brushes. Cosmetic surgery addicts form the plucked fringe of a sort to the cavity of a thigh. "Beauty pornography" Women say form a glossy journal "nasty, sticky, foreign body product cost." With extortionate outlay she can transform her skin through unguent & paint — Empathy shampoo, Cameo soap, Lovely Care cream, Protectival, Sol Damage Limitation, etc. Estrogen pills called Mini-Helene which confer youthful radiance.

Literary Review, Nov. 1990

Nobody is much interested in the deaths of the literary grandees like Patrick White & Alberto Moravia. Moderation is a minority interest. There is no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The food in Russia as expected, was pretty filthy, but the pilgrims made up for it for with midnight feasts of black market caviare & vodka, the first available about the death of the London Press. He will carry the magazine out of its lowest into undreamed heights of prosperity.

Claire Tomalin, The Invisible Woman: The Story of Nelly Ternan & Charles Dickens.



Suppose some great married celebrity nowadays in the full tide of fame & success were to run away with some young woman. What used to be called his Mistress. Everyone would know, & everyone would be bored. But if Dickens had proceeded to live openly in sin with Ellen he would have brought his whole extraordinary magic ("Household Words") crashing about his ears. No Victorian would ever have come up to him in the street with a "God bless you, Mr Dickens". Crowds would not have poured into halls all over Europe & the New World to hear him & the murder of Nancy by Bill Sikes they would have hissed & booed him off. Though coming from a theatrical family, Ellen was bored by having to act for her keep in pantomime. She must have enchanted Dickens. He should at once have supposed her the child-Mistress of his dreams, demure, placid, at once Molly placid & Molly in charge — the always sought-for child-mother. No wonder his daughter Kate observed, after his death, "My father did not understand women". The indifferent, irresponsible mother (Ellen over the silly girl, the dear pure good girl, the unfeeling flirt (Estella in Great Expectations & Bella Wilfer in Our Mutual Friend): these are the kinds of stereotypes he worked in, & this kept him, as they did so many men of his time, from any real knowledge of the female sex. Nelly, flanked by her two venerable sisters & her courageous mother, is a small piece of reality set against the conniving & evasions of Victorian fiction. She wasn't in love, few women in such a situation could be. But here was the greatest Victorian story & total: passion, stink, all the works. No doubt she & her family must have thought about a good deal. She had little talent for the theatre & did not in love with anyone else. Dickens's infatuation must have been a source of bitter frustration. He thought her a dolt & flirt, cold in heart & sex. Nelly is only seen as a sane & strong-minded person, but was one of a close family, to

When she was deeply attached. The only well documented episode from the 12 years of the Lidian is the ~~fatal~~ Great Staplehurst Railway Disaster which took place not long before Dickens's death in 1870. Dickens & Ellen & her mother were returning from Paris when the train crashed in Kent. Contrary to most dependents Dickens earned publicity from the rescue help he personally gave. Even wrote to the Stationmaster at Waterloo enquiring after some lockets & jewellery "a young relative" of his had lost. Ellen attended Dickens's own funeral & obtained a substantial legacy on top of the property & cash she had already been given. Then, a free woman at last, she made for France & Italy. Her eldest Sister left her husband an Oxford brewer & lived in Rome, earning a fair good money as a journalist. The next sister Fanny, a governess to the step-daughters of Tom Trollope elder brother of the novelist Anthony, & later married Tom. The three sisters became well known expatriate figures in the social world of Rome & Florence. Their stepson took Holy Orders at Oxford, Ellen met a second year undergraduate, George Robinson, ready to become a parson. He instantly fell under her spell & sent her adoring verses in both English & Latin. George was one of his family had known the Great Works - with more than that - he was an ardent & unscrupulous man. Eventually they married & she would not let him be a parson. They started a school at Margate which soon became fashionable. The youth of Mrs Robinson, formerly known as Delicate & Retiring, now blossomed. At the age of nearly 40 she produced a fine son George, & shortly after a beautiful daughter, Gladys. The school failed. They sank in the social scale. George died aged 60: his 32 year old wife was inconsolable Gerald became a Major in the army

the importance of parental models. a sex object to spice up second-rate movies.

Nabokov's approval of Andrew Field's project suggests that he would be pleased so much for Boswell as Mrs Hardy, the biographer as obedient amanuensis. The subsequent book Nabokov: His Life in Art shows the biographer as world-be rival to the subject. There was a 4 year legal struggle for permanent copyright. "Much biographizing!" The biographer is rather a dull dog. Towards the end of his life, Nabokov remarked that the story of his past resembled not so much a biography as a bibliography. Unable to find two consecutive seats in Paris, Nabokov would decide in his little room between sleeping in the one main room & setting up a study in the bathroom where the wooden desk had a suitcase balanced over the toilet. It would be nice to know whether Nabokov ever clashed with Véra.

The widow burned all Burton's unpublished papers, including private journals, & enjoined the world not to "suppose for a moment that Richard Burton was ever otherwise than an impeccably devoted husband." Meanwhile she published a biography designed to demonstrate that their odd unequal marriage had been idyllic. Swinburne: "She has helped Richard Burton's memory & been happy." Isabel Burton was virtuous, Victorian, jealous, prudish, & fervent Catholic. She didn't have children.

The Raffles Hotel in Singapore has still not forgotten Ava Gardner's lost knickers. They went missing when she stayed there more than 40 yrs ago. The hotel's name – the actress created has not faded from the hotel's memory. A voice coach searching for North Carolina drawl. Her third union with Frank Sinatra was described at the time as the on-again, off-again marriage of the century.

He says that Jews had infiltrated the Spanish upper classes; one might [illegible] that Hitler's fanatic Visigothic barbarians & each scum of the

earth had inflicted the upper class Jews & Moors of the Iberian Peninsula. Christian monocular vision needs to be corrected.

Ray Monk, Ludwig Wittgenstein, the Duty of Genius. For his detractors he is Hans Andersen's naked emperor come to life. Conservative, complacent, commonsensical & essentially philistine, Oxford linguistic philosophy was in fact light years away from the true mental world of Wittgenstein. A product of the extraordinary fin de siècle Vienna, he was deeply influenced by Schopenhauer, Nietzsche & above all by the crazed misogynist Otto Weininger. Incapable of genuine human contact, he became trapped in what Monk calls "extraordinary solipsism". The jury is still out on whether his homosexuality was of the compulsive promiscuous type ("the Joe Orton of philosophy" as one wag put it) but he was a cold, practising homosexualist whose heartlessness caused the early death of Francis Skinner, a troubled pastor. His self-hatred manifested itself in transmogrified form as anti-Semitism, i.e. hatred of the race of which he was himself a member. He yearned to achieve the Christ-like perfection of Myshkin in The Idiot or Alyosha in The Brothers Karamazov. His favourite writers were Tolstoy & Dostoevsky & he despised pulp fiction ranging from Conan Doyle, seeing in Sherlock Holmes the same "science of logic" he so detested in Russell's Principia Mathematica. However, and Gasset always drew out the countervailing tendency towards humanity. Lewis Namier on T. E. Lawrence: "He had to rise above others & then humble himself & in self-inflicted humiliation demonstrate his superiority". Frank Ramsey: "What we can't say we can't say & we can't whistle either." Bertrand Russell saw his bookish as the vindication of reason.

Born in France to an exiled White Russian father & a French mother, Vladimir Pozner grew up in New York. His father took him back to Russia in 1932. He went from bricklayer to journalist, ending up as Radio Moscow's only English language commentator. He elaborate brain-washing for his own benefit in the official line

Encounter, Sept. 1990

What left the French Revolution its principal character was its wish to be universal. 1789 defined a "Before" & an "After." For 200 yrs 1789 has represented the origin of the division of the French into Right & Left — into those who loved the ancien régime & so detested the Revolution & vice versa. It was his anticipation/prediction of & devotion to the despotism that left Burke's analysis its enormous influence. Two years later, that despotism would be realised in the Terror. After trying to conserve the ancien régime Monarchy within a completely Republican system, the revolutionaries founded a dictatorial Republic based on the fear of the guillotine & finally ended up with an administrative & military dictatorship infinitely more despotic than any monarchy had ever been. The Left, latter-day Jacobins, who wished to continue Robespierre's heritage, invoked, with the help of Babeuf, a doctrine of egalitarian communism based on common redistribution. Both fascism & communism, in their own ways can be traced back to the same origin. They have brought into question the universalist abstraction of the French Revolution & have denounced the ideas of 1789 as the family lie of Modern democracy. It is true that beyond this point the two critiques radically part company. Fascism seeks to destroy universality & return in the

weather cocks of or Wendehälse. Those are the necks that can turn their pointed nose full-circle in any direction.

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name of the Nation & the Race. Communism combats the same ideal as a bourgeois illusion, but seeks to realize it in the name of the Proletariat. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 they had begun 1789. The opposite is now happening: in 1917 that is being buried in the name of 1789. There were some in the West who wished to preserve a balance by dangling the lamb to the tawdry tiger. In Bavaria itself one may even read that Robert Conquest's Great Terror had "drawn the picture four 1920s & 1930s More honestly than we have ourselves..."

Ignazio Silone, 37 years after his expulsion & 12 years after his death, has now been "rehabilitated" by the Italian Communist Party. The whole affair has been termed "a tragic episode" by one of the influential spokesmen (Umberto Ranieri) of the Party's young guard.

Robin FOX ~~the~~ published an essay entitled "Marxism's Obit is Premature", in which he held that Lenin distorted the true meaning of Marxism "as much as the Christian Church has distorted the words of Christ". The Marxist idea "has never been tried" & remains still valid. (Professor Eric J. Hobsbawm: "I don't like being in the company of the sort of people I've been leaving the Communist movement. Here are certain clubs of which I would not wish to be a member." Evidently the company he prefers is the same club to which belonged Stalin, Beria, Brezhnev, Ceaușescu, Pol Pot, et al.

In almost every case, the biographies of people I [John Bayley] knew well in the first half of my life, written by young authors, are disappointing, not because they contain factual errors that one could pinpoint, but because they view their subjects through a permanent filter of incomprehension that

A word for Hanks is in order — Ed. Hanks.

produces a all-pervading atmosphere of error. In the late '40s & early 50s the Left-Wing pressure was a mixture of cultural & political. In the '60s the cultural pressure was renamed "Radical chic." The New Statesman was at the height of its influence from about 1935 to '55. Its political opinions were presided over by Kingsley Martin; its opinions on literature & the arts by a witty, stylish team who represent the last flowering of the Bloomsbury garden, their opinions safely kept in their tastes formed by expensive education & foreign travel. "If the front page of the New Statesman had their way," the political joke ran, "the back pages would cease to exist." In this climate, criticizing any state Soi-disant Socialist was like spitting on the tablecloth. One just didn't do it. Orwell & committed the crime of "splitting the Left." Apparently Young brave men until prison don't split the Left — but only that you have seen them do it, is the smart thing to do was to proclaim the superiority of the Communist system as loudly as one could, while living among the comforts & privileges of the liberal democracies where there are no penalties attached for such behaviour, otherwise known as biting the hand that fed you.

Shackled to a version like metrical galley-slaves, hyphen-twisters unconsciously distorted the language: inversion ("did the star behold"), fustian archaism ("thrice", "spake"), intrusive auxiliary verbs ("did meet"), apostrophes ("heav'n", "o'er", "e'en"), etc. Sir Henry Newbolt is no longer a name to conjure with, nor is the Hope prodding a poet out of an empty box. Salman Rushdie is a Muslim Indian. He has a certain amount of unseemly crowing over his predicament last year: one or two columnists

Received almost pleased that this cocky, chippy babe had got his come-uppance. It was understandable. For years Rushdie had been fulminating against his adoptive country. He had made a career of his wish that Third World Britons come home. Then in 1989 & it was the racist English police who stood between him & murder at the hand of fanatics who themselves claimed to represent the oppressed masses. There is a truly terrible irony in reading his essay "Out of Limbo" (Written 1984): "We may not approve of Khomeini's Iran. But the revolution there was a genuine mass movement. So, the revolution in Nicaragua". If so, so what? So was Nazism. In The Satanic Verses there are two characters called Mrs Torture & Mahound. The promiscuous idea of a Third World does not stand up to close examination. People only look alike when you can't be bothered to look at them too closely. The Australian aborigines didn't seem to have created a culture as evolved as those of Europe, China or India, & the anthropologists want to keep primitive peoples primitive.

In the years of "the young fogies" Auberon Waugh's phrase "the Nanny State" was bound to be a success. The word "nanny" implies a fixed set of fussiness that takes the form of insistence on cleanliness, politeness, clean & tidy. Similar obloquy attached to the word "schoolmarm". As Mr Dooley's Father Kelly remarked "I don't care what ye learn them so long as 'tis not pleasant to them ... th' child who's hair is bein' pulled is learnin' patience, an' th' child that's pullin' th' hair is discoverin' th' brutality in human endeavor." "Non Sparare" the notices in Italian trains used to read in a more authoritarian age could be held to represent

Peter Carter-Ruck, the hottest libel lawyer, appeared on Private Eye as
Peter Foster-Fuck.

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an intolerable restriction on the freedom of those who prefer to chew tobacco rather than smoke it. In the U.S. the smoker is already a hunted species. Sharks is banned during a meal in the dining rooms of many London clubs. The libertarians forget that governments do not pass legislation for the fun of it.

The owner of a bar called Dick's Takeaway in Malta intended to go up-market & put the name in Latin: Citrus interruptus.

London Review of Books, 19 April 1990

3 She summed up the sense of the Revolution as a shock that left a whole class sleep-walking towards the precipice. "Exile literature never let go of the idea that the true Russia was "outside"; what had remained behind was a "false" Russia. Yet somehow the past could only be revived by loss, 5 not by possession. It was with the third wave of dissident & Jewish emigration, beginning in the '60s & '70s, that the Russian in exile discovered that the true traditions of Russian intellectual & moral life had survived all along, in heroic adversity, through the darkness of Stalin's terror. 6 Internal exile & expatriates can recognise each other as common kin of a Russian intellectual heritage which Stalin did not succeed in destroying.

6 Academician I. R. Shafarevich, a world-famous mathematician, a member of the Royal Society & the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, published an essay "Russophobia" last year in Nash Sovremennik, which makes him an ideologue of contemporary Russian nationalism. He played no role in Russian public life before the 1880s. After the Revolution, he was closely involved in the destruction of China's traditions: they commanded the

Russia

firing squad which executed the last Tsar & his family; they dominated the Cheka as well as its successor the OGPU; & they provided the leaders who established the Gulag system. Did Russian revolutionaries could live make a clean break from their Russian roots, Jews have no real ties to the Russian people. What do they care if Old Russia was destroyed? Jews had never lost their feeling of superiority as a chosen people. The Jewish "little nation", Shafarevich demonstrates, is unique: it has existed for two millennia, surviving in durability & malevolence all other variants of the "little nation" phenomenon. His trial finds a ready audience. The anti-Russian "racism" of Jews.

Leonard Woolf called himself a "Socialist of a Rather Peculiar Sort", the early letters to Lytton Strachey use a lot of in-group Cambridge language. His brother called him a mean & "a lickspittle of greater intellects" — This when Woolf was 23. Lytton Strachey wrote that in Woolf's place I in the Colonial Service in Ceylon I he would be tormented by "desire to copulate ~~without~~ with a bronze bottom without copulating with a brown face." He was generous when he insisted on paying Freud's royalties for Works for which he had earlier contracted without incurring an obligation to do so. He was anti-Stalinist & very firm on the point that the end never justifies the means. His late love letters to Trekkie Parsons in his sixties.

13 Spinoza's Tractatus Theologico-Politicus & Ethics would offer a test-case for Leo Strauss's model of deliberate covertness & Aesopian discourse. To compare to Yirmiyahu Yovel's Spinoza & Other Heretics (2 vols). Spinoza carried him a heterodoxy in his entirety: that of the Marranos, of the Jews forced to

Converts (Christianity in Spain at the end of the 15th century. It is the Marrano configuration of spirit & language, with its numberless nuances of dissimulation & unspecified reservations. This is not a novel claim: it has been made by such scholars as G. Gebhardt & P. Popkin. But Yovel goes far beyond the tentative proposals of his predecessors. For him Spinoza is "the Marrano of Reason". The genuine converso. Jews Catholicised to the extent of becoming Grand Inquisitors & baroque-mystical poets of the agonies of Christ (Torquemada, Saint Teresa of Avila) vs the secret Judaizers within the Catholic observance. Spinoza's linguistic equivocations (pointed to by Leo Strauss) & his muted, almost hidden life-style. Celestina was written by Rojas of Jewish origin. Yovel shows that the typical use & equivocations of its characters, the "aesthetics of mask" within the clowning closely mirror the condition of the converso & the games he had to play with the Inquisition. Spinoza will discard the vestiges of Judaeo-Christianism which partially fetter Rojas. However, Spinoza's presumed fausse situation cannot be overcome & he operates in the Ethics. Descartes used veiled discourse just as Spinoza had in the Tractatus, & he was no Marrano. He formulates beliefs solely in view of our "epistemic context": the "reasons & evidence" that are available to us (Jeffrey Stout, Ethics after Babel). But certainly it makes an advance on X because in X's "epistemic context" contains the possibility for Y's advance was already available. Stout glosses the French bricolage (applied to philosophical theorizing) "What bricoleurs do with collections of imported odds & ends, namely, put some of them to better to serve that purpose of the moment." Whenever a

Fraction writes in any branch of inquiry, bricoleurs will consider that addition of information, theory & method are available to them from the thought of the recent past, & will not hesitate to build on answers in whatever way they please. Will write a "portrait of their contemporaries" "the creative intellectual work of every generation involves moral bricolage." The social fabric is a "coat of many colours, constantly in need of mending & patching, sometimes even recutting & restyling."

Marcel Reich-Ranicki made a name for himself in literary journalism. He became a member of Gruppe 47, a loose association of writers opposed to the orthodoxies of the Adenauer era. "He writes about me, therefore I am," observed Wolfgang Koeppen, one of Reich-Ranicki's "discoveries." His first influential book was Deutsche Literatur in West und Ost (1963). His study of the role of Jews in German literature, Über Ruhestörer (1973), deals with Heine, Börne, Becker & others as "trouble-makers"; the role-call of Jewish dissent extends from Adorno & Benjamin through Kafka & Lukács to Peter Weiss & Arnold Zweig. But dissent should not be confused with descent: the Catholic Böll, the Marxist Brecht & others are also ("trouble-makers" too). Thomas Mann & his family attempts to "demonumentalise". Mann by drawing attention to certain characteristic flaws & evasions in his post-humously-published diaries.

Early Modern Pessimists in the Christian Tradition extended the idea that "the soul has no sex" (in Heaven people shed their genitalia) to assert that "the mind has no sex". But they were rebutted by the secularists.

~~London~~ ~~Saturday~~ Review of ~~Literature~~ Books, 10 May 1990

Fiona Dors has a lasting "Come up & read me sometime" expression on her face the first editor of D.N.B.: "Based upon the lives of the great men that the work really depends. It is the second-rate people that provide the really useful study." ~~D~~NP's colourful packaging hints at a sexy, debonair new mix, with tits & bythecream replacing the dog-collared sideburns of bygone days. But dust-jackets rarely gather dust and when you throw away the wrapping, all is actually well: the DNB's dignity has not been seriously interfered with. Bishops are still preferred to businessmen. It comes to those that your sense of public service is not just some youthfully liberal flash in the pan, you have to live to a great age. ~~Tony~~ Early-burn-out professions like pop singing. The attitude to slowboy triumphs in surprisingly relaxed women still seem to be getting a raw deal, with only about 10% of the entries. There used to be a policy precluding "sirings" from the "biographical fold". It is hard to believe that John Bostin Adams would have won a clot as a medical practitioner. Wickedness in the case of Anthony Blunt actually pays off rather handsomely: his desire to be at once part of the establishment & against it ... he wanted both to run with the hare & hunt with the hounds."

Tom Dickey was uneasy, unhappy, inquisitive & voracious man, blessed with good taste & cursed by lack of means. He would go anywhere & do anything for the chance to suck somebody off. He tends to eat what he did it on Doctor's Orders ("the potassium ingredient is frightfully good for one"). The potassium donor should be heterosexual, proletarian and unknown to Tom before the encounter. A taste for policemen, for uniforms, for dodgem-dresses &—

& garage mechanics. He wasn't a cosmopolite. He could go much for the end
End of business, once telling me Christopher Hitchens I find by how he identi-
fied with Auden's "Letter to a friend" & with all those who had ever suffered
a rectal fissure. He just liked to administer free bleed-jobs to the masses.
Tom loved to come back from the battlefront chaos & come down to
the Commons or the Labour Party or the C of E, & to sit there steaming & complete
thinking, "If they only knew," while the cream was still drying on his whiskers.
He was in agony about his decision to exclude the account of his blowing
Aneurin Bevan from his memoirs. He spoiled with imitation of his knockers
ex-wife's refusal to abide by their pre-nuptial agreement: "She tried to
seduce me! Our honeymoon!" "That awful wound – I don't think
how you can."

Disraeli says dismissively of the utilitarian account of human motivation:
"To say that when a man acts, he acts from self-interest, is only to announce,
that when a man acts, he acts!" According to him, the semitic race as a
whole was superior, including the Arabs, who rose "only Jews on horseback!"
In Tancred we read that Jehovah "obtained the simplest Hebrew mind
should model & govern the world". "For myself, I look upon the Church
as the only Jewish institution that remains ... The Jews ought to accept the
Church, & are fools to oppose it."

There is not a single passage in the Satanic Verses that comes close to echoing
in the Qur'an & Islamic history of Mahound" receiving the message from Allah
that justifies his double standard with regard to wives (with the following from
Qur'an: "Prophet! We have made lawful to you the wives to whom you have

granted dowries & the slave-girls whom Allah has given you as booty; the daughters of your paternal & maternal uncles & aunts who fled with you; & the other women who gave themselves to you & whom you wished to take in marriage. This privilege is yours alone, & granted to no other believer... We grant you this privilege so that none may blame you. Allah is forgiving & merciful."

London Review of Books, 24 May 1990

8

A Young Girl's Diary was first published in Vienna in 1919 by Auguste von Hug-Hellmuth, a member of the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society. It was supposed to be what it says it is: an original document, the diary of a Viennese schoolgirl from the ages of 11 to the age of 14. Hug-Hellmuth used Freud's letter in her introduction as an official: "there is only one hope for a man with venereal disease, & that is that a young girl should give herself to a man refusing from whom she gets the disease & she herself is cured." The whole *Diary* is simply too embarrassing, too sadly put together to seem quite real.

Evelyn Waugh's favourite Gothic novel was *Jazz & Jasper* (1927), published two years earlier than *Vile Bodies*. The New Lytton Beaverbrook seems to have genuinely admired Auberon & Maud's kind of mascot of him, grooming him on every possible way for public life. Religion came easier to him than English, in the use of which he never seems to have obtained an instinctive confidence. Bernard Shaw, he noted, had a red nose & he wondered whether the famous abstinence was really as total as he claimed. He had a natural sense of the

and metonymic Prairie-like stretches flicker like immortal sheet lightning in The Waste Land, published in the same year as Ferkhitz (1926)—those nightingales & dirty ears. A tender scene in The Polyglots is interrupted with sudden disgusting smell of burning fish-bones from someone's relinquished arbours whose it take place. Ethel Mannin, a powerful figure in the literary & social world of the time, accidentally declined to be seduced, & Gerhardie responded to her as the medieval woman he was most Katharine Mansfield deeply admired Ferkhitz.

Nabokov loved to write stand-up ("Pikes," he told a Bellow-teaching at Cornell) A number of letters are written by his wife Vera, though Vera can be a transparent pseudonym for Vladimir, to spare him further distraction. Reply to an inquiry set of questions from Time & Tide as to how, when & where he wrote, & how he found inspiration: "Dear Sirs, My husband asks me to send you his answers to your questions of December 27th: 1. Pencil. 2. Anywhere. 3. Anytime. 4. It finds me. He also a question for you: Why do you spell his name with two a's? Yours truly, Mrs Vladimir Nabokov" an advert in an American magazine for a life-size doll with 'Greek French & Greek apertures' My book was published in June. The Observer asks the comic mock slip right off. & Hat's taken Chesterton James is attacking Lewis: "Clerical dragon in its pure form ... If he had been asked to give his opinion of Hitler or Himmler, he would not have been able to summon up any terms of disapprobation that he had not already lavished

A quickie book, written to "fleshout", as American image-pair-ers say, the candidate's W. G. Runciman's masterful essay on the French Revolution (in Confessions of a Reluctant Theorist, 1990) argues that the Revolution was literally "unnecessary": first, in the sense that it took place only as result of an unfortunate coincidence; second, in the sense that the [Ancien Régime] fought a war for Hollenbach [Haugh & Holloway]. Needless to say, the two are indistinguishable from each other, Tweedledum & Tweedledee.

London Review of Books, 14 June 1990

Revolution, insurrection, revolt: none of these terms fitted, except in Romanian case. Our language has needed a word like *aufstand* or *ponizstanie*, in German or Polish, with their connotation of a "standing up" after long prostration. Some seek to belittle the importance of the French Revolution, to "revise" it down to the scale of a mere interregnum, a hiccup in French history. Revisionism, at one level, is a rebellion against the almost impregnable left-wing orthodoxy represented by the Chair in the History of the Revolution at the Sorbonne, & its "apostolic succession" of occupants & disciples since its establishment in 1891: a vendetta between French intellectuals fought out in the 5th, & 6th arrondissements. The Sorbonne orthodoxy is a "Marxist" interpretation of the French Revolution which incorporates it as one necessary stage in the development of the dialectic of history which was to culminate in the Bolshevik Revolution.* The money-obsessed, *enrichissez-vous* country of Balzac's characters, many uncharacteristic moments of playfulness duly noted by Nelson Algren, Simone de Beauvoir called herself his "frog wife", i.e. a changeling who cannot read the prince but is only his night-time consort. La Grande Sarabande in which Sartre & Beauvoir proudly termed their "Morganatic" marriage. The Second Sex, the most influential feminist treatise of the 20th century. She profited during the German Occupation, working every day in cafés frequented by Nazi propaganda officers & notorious for German-controlled media.

Both Sartre & Sartre left 1967 Zaterniza with the occupation, "neither dec
they take heroic or extraordinary means to resist" (Deirdre Bair, Si-
mone de Beauvoir: A Biography, 718 pp.) Many feminists today see it
as being inevitable that Sartre's supposed intellect entitled him to his
unfaithful sorties as a form of self-abasement that perpetuated the
conventional male-female domination & women's secondary status.
Beauvoir had heavily edited Sartre's Lettres au Castor (1985). In her Lettres
à Sartre (2 vols, ed. by Sylvie le Bon de Beauvoir) there is a detailed &
cheerful account of her seduction of Sartre's pupil, Pierre Bost. What
has scandalised the French are the revelations of Beauvoir's affairs
with Olga Kosakievicz (who later married Bost) & two of her other
women students, all three also Sartre's mistresses — the machinations,
plots & secrets of Sartre & Beauvoir in managing their ménages & their seduc-
tions of students. She started living together with a young lover, Claude
Lanzmann, in 1950. Of 20, she met Sartre, then 22, already a legend at
the Sorbonne. He was famous for failing his exams (in his efforts to achieve
originality he had neglected to answer the questions), for throwing water-bombs out of the window & yelling "Vive Staline et Trotsky!"
& for his powers with women. He was tiny, wall-eyed, pock-marked, dirty
& badly dressed. But he took first place in the competition & the took
the cake, the myth of his seductivity was established for ever. They made a
pact: "We only promise we never lie to one another, but nothing is to
remain concealed from the other. Deceptions are tolerated despite
their pact." "You lie to all these women?" inquired Olivier Todd. "To
them all," replied Sartre with a smile, "especially to Castor." Sartre

preferred his girl friends to be short (Beauvoir rose Lowe heels & stooped), young & willing to fit into his life; he talked or called Beauvoir to play the lady whenever a woman was an obstacle to make serious demands on him. In the most extreme of these episodes his American Mistress Dolores left her husband & moved to Paris "As he was not a good lover... Monuments & Museums bored him, nature disgusted him, & he was suspicious of most native foods. He always came down with a strange indigenous malady in almost every country he ever visited." His serene self-centredness sometimes boggles the mind: when he was threatened by letter bombs during the Algerian War, he had his girlfriends & his mother open his mail. The endless devotion of these women & Sartre makes demoralising reading. They competed for space in his calendar. They queued for the privilege of sleeping with him, talking to the doctor, etc; by the end of his life there was a cadre of young women "baby-sitting Sartre". If her students derided his advances, Beauvoir was affronted; Nelson Algren was not part of the man's Paris. When he said she had pimped for him. If she felt anger or despair, she never expressed it to anyone. She was baffled by & hostile to many of Sartre's political obsessions. Was Pollitt, his catalogue of his physical decline & death, a cathartic? She always vehemently denied that she had sexual relationships with women. Nevertheless, intense & intimate friendships with women are spread out through her life, beginning with Zaza, her beloved girlhood friend. During the war, as her letters make clear, she had serious sexual affairs with her lycée students Olga Kosakievicz, Natasha Sorokine, & Bianca Bienenfeld. Despite the 30-year difference in their ages, both St Sylvie le Bon & Beauvoir

both rejected the mother-daughter analogy. After Lee's death in 1980 she adopted Sylvie, who became her legal heir executor & heir. Their life together seems indeed to have been the marriage of loving but independent equals.

London Review of Books, 28 June 1990

American sociology had retreated from the pursuit of social theory toward the perfection of grantsmanship dedicated the practice of microsociology. British sociology remained a highly theoretical pursuit. W. R. Runciman took for a sleeping company doing sociology in his spare time. His Master work A Treatise on Social Theory. "What is there in sociology which is neither second-rate history nor second-rate philosophy?" The Treatise fact produces the work of Perry Anderson, Ernest Gellner, Anthony Giddens, Steven Lukes, et al.

Boris Yeltsin's volable anti-Communism made him an instant Western media hero. He represents the resurgence of xenophobic nationalism & anti-semitism. His relationship with the neo-fascist group Pamyat movement in Russia is intimate, if not unofficial.

The Spectator published a snotty letter from some Canadian business mogul named Conrad Black, who evidently took-worshipped Ronald Reagan. This entrepreneur speaks of buying up some English newspapers in order to put Christopher Hitchens, a critic who likes him, out of a job. The Spectator's then-editor filed it away under "department of empty threats." Then Black bought the Spectator. His is not so much an open mind as an empty mind, & an empty mind will not stay but be promptly filled up with platitude

Ford Madox Ford said that Arnold Bennett, being of humble origins, would shrink at the sight of a policeman, whereas to people of Ford's class policemen were servants you sent to fetch a cab when it rained.

Though it would be difficult to get at the truth of the murder by Communists in the midst of Whitehall during the War without appearing to launch a Moscow hunt, a measure of clearness on the part of the comrades is overdue. Ruth Brandon, The New Women & the Old Men. Havelock Ellis marvelled at the intensity of Eleanor Marx's body odour on warm summer walks. G.B Shaw alleged "Sunday husband" to a wide array of dissatisfied, superior women. Male responses to the argument for sexual freedom & the New Woman to claim all the privileges of old-style patriarchs, leaving women caught in a double bind — disburdened, abandoned & ashamed if they chose to have sex, & hence children, outside marriage, or frustrated & disapproved if they chose to devote themselves solely to a cause. "Better to have the hand written together with... the babe we might have had?" asked Edith Ellis. Beatrice Potter was physically revolted by Sidney Webb, but married him because their principles were a perfect match. When Hubert Bland courted H. G. Wells' footloose to run off with his illegitimate daughter, Wells rose indignantly that his seduction was a matter of principle, whereas Bland's many adventures were simply & unrepentantly pleasurable. "Wells thought... he was persuading women that the world was well lost for principle. But in fact all he succeeded in doing was to persuade them that the world would be well lost for love. ... Few of these brilliant, forceful, ambitious women like Eleanor Marx,

provide a suitable "package" for the ~~her~~ improved "product"

Edith Ellis, Amber Reeves, even Beatrice Webb & Rebecca West, managed to live their lives as they would have done had they been outside, pace agents H. G. Wells, Havelock Ellis, Edward Aveling lived according to their own plans." Fully realised women exist in two incompatible economic modes. The public world of work is an exchange economy. "Women's work", in contrast, lies outside the World of exchange. What it produces—children & the rituals of the home—has no market value. It is priceless, unparalleled. Its consuming interest to only one set of consumers. The rhetoric surrounding the New Woman confused these two kinds of economy. "Quiet please—marriage in progress," runs the standard Tottenham-issue warning hanging on the door of the average British Registry Office. It is not a five-minute job—3 minutes for handing over the Rolls & collecting your receipt too for framing a lifetime's commitment. Smile please; kiss the bride; you've passed Vera Brittain: "Now it takes two parents to take the child to the doctor—one to do it & one to keep the one who does it from becoming resentful about doing it". G. B. Shaw is frankly admitted that he enjoyed his solitude after his wife's death & had "improved marvellously in health".

A. A. Milne married a bright young thing with a rich father. They had separate bedrooms: Marie Stopes called that this arrangement ~~kept~~ romance in a marriage & should always be practised "where finances permitted". Both had dinner affairs, he with an actress, she with the American playwright Elmer Rice.

London Review of Books, 12 July 1990

There is always another dead Pole looming up, all too aptly named, the one that Time's winged chariot is heading for. Goethe said that, far from bringing wisdom, the passing years make it hard for us to preserve what wisdom we may have had. In Julian Barnes's *Staring at the Sun*, a character reflects that when they have lost, their friends & contemporaries the very old need interpreters. "Everything you wanted to say required a context. If you gave the full context, people thought you a boringly old fool. If you didn't give the context, people thought you a laconic old fool." Rosalind to Jaques: "I had rather have a fool to make me merry than experience to make me sad." When you cease to work, you can lose your status, eventually your identity. Statistics give with one hand & take away with the other. A third of the retired live at or below the poverty line (& perhaps never lived far above it). The Palestinians found themselves making international headlines not as terrorists but as heroic underdogs. David the good guy was not a Palestinian, & nasty Goliath an Israeli. The use of stones rather than guns was their strongest political card in the vital game to win the world's sympathy.

Stephen Fennand did not remotely want to know a crucial fact. That he had no talent — or rather, he "knew" it in some sense, was extremely successful in hiding the knowledge out. For the pool of Narcissus, need we look further than the lens of his lifelong friend, Cecil Beaton? "I'm nearly crazy at their beauty," he wrote of Beaton about the latter's photos of himself. One cannot help thinking of Wilde's fable. Once the pool of Narcissus had really been a reed-fringed lake upon

It might bear the title of
Marriage-Mart

Band. He replied that he couldn't remember, he had been so preoccupied
with his own reflection in Narcissus's eyes. Tennant's had fostered
extravagantly about his own beauty even in old age, when he looked after-
all
Richard Haggart's famous book was originally called The Abuses of Literacy. His
publishers frowned it to a libel lawyer, on whose advice Haggart changed
Abuses to Uses & removed his quotations from "the sex- and violence
literature" of James Hadley Chase & Ian Fleming: he substituted words
of his own, not gaging these offensive words, but carefully imitating them, ...
pastiches, which hence ceased to be imitation. Working-class people
are "remain folded for the usual unholy trio: the popular press, the
more populist politicians & the admen".
An African woman who had just had a child saw someone approaching her,
intending to view her new infant & compliment it. The mother ran as fast
as she could, hid the baby, & in its place substituted a stone, which she
wrapped in the baby's blanket. The guest arrived & proceeded to tell the
mother what a beautiful child she had & began making predictions about the
wonderful destiny awaiting the infant. When the guest left, the mother loosened
the blanket, unwrapped the stone, & found it shattered into little pieces. This
theme ~~is~~ — that too much praise may be the next best thing to murder —
has been taken up in America, where several books have recounted the
fate of the first novelist who meets with overwhelming success & spends
the rest of his life calamitously struggling to keep up with himself.

George Bataille, the cult hero of the French avant-garde writers of the '60s & '70s, was the self-proclaimed Antichrist of paradoxes as well as the author of some of the century's most troubling works of pornography (e.g. Madame Edwarda, Story of the Eye). He had a 40-yr career as a librarian. The essence of religion is "a search for lost intimacy"; "intimacy" in Bataille's vocabulary, refers primarily to the immanence of pure animal existence: "The animal is in the world like water in water." Animals, lacking self-consciousness, know neither damage nor law.

Literary Review, Oct. 1990

Few reputations fade more quickly than those of politicians. Instant oblivion. The late Dick Crossman was an enthusiastic flogger at Winchester. He hit one boy with such wild abandon that he cut him dangerously near the eye. In consequence of his excesses the headmaster of Winchester abolished the pleasure Grand Ash as "official weapon" & invented Art an ordinary cane should be used instead. Studying in Germany in 1931 he took up with a German woman called Erika Glück, who had already been through two husbands, both a four-year-old daughter from the first, & was by then the courier for — & mistress of — Willi Münzenberg, an agent of the Comintern. In July 1932, Dick & Erika wed at Kford register office. But by Christmas the bride had run off with someone else, leaving behind in their college lodgings her Bavarian maid, who promptly became Dick's mistress. By 1934, while still living with Rosi, he was having an affair with the wife of one of his colleagues, Zita Baker, who had already been the mistress of the Labour politician Evan Durbin, Arthur Koestler & Tom Harrisson. Dick wanted to propose to the poor John Baker

Saved from the danger of suicide by boredom
Dear illumination into the Labyrinthine Corridors of bores.
The Literary Review Anthology of Real Poetry, ed. Auberon Waugh.

Had he might join them in a ménage à trois, but Zita asked for a divorce. Dick, terrified that he might lose his fellowship at New College if he wrecked as corres-pondent, somehow prevailed upon Baker to name yet another of Zita's old flames, a ship's steward from Cowley, as the guilty party. Meanwhile, John Baker took up with a Russian woman called Liena. Unfortunately Liena also had a husband, a man called Savage, who ran a newsagent's shop in Carfax. The furious Savage — "the only individual who counted out in this game of matrimonial musical chairs" — took his story to the Warden of New College. Dick, the marriage-breaker, was forced to resign his fellowship. A "royal elephant", a great lumbering beast crashing through the under-growth, inadvertently crushing whole colonies of insects. He once described himself as "a pike in a pond of minnows". Jonathan Howard, the biographer, was a good friend of Dick Crossman & it is absurd for him to air-brush himself out of the narrative so comprehensively & slum the first person singular

Günter Grass, Two States–One Nation? opposes reunification, arguing instead for a Confederation of two German states. He reminds us that a unified German state existed for only 75 years. Market economy is used as a torture instrument: "If you don't come to heel, you don't get anything. Not even bananas."

Philip Beresford, the Sunday Times Book of the Rich: Britain's 400 Richest People, opens with a full-page spread of the Queen looking absolutely radiant. Not surprising: she's looking at the large type on the opposite page: £6,700m, up from £5,200m last year. £1,500m a year, £4m a day. And it's not

V. S. Naipaul is the first writer of Asian origin to receive a Knighthood
Spice Tarzan & Muhammad Ali bout.
The philanthropy of publishers knows no bounds Free copies are dispatched on publication

funny money on The Stock Exchange: as she doesn't pay tax she would have made More Poor just leaving it in a building society. Number two is the Duke of Westminster, conservatively estimated at £4,200 m. King Fahd's $18,000 m. & the Sultan of Brunei's got 25,000 m. "Riches profit not in the days of wrath" (Proverbs 11.4) & What's the good of telephone numbers Money When Saddam or a Borneo head-hunter is waiting for you? The cash in your name, not the state's, and the state organized to make sure you keep it. A new Who's Got What series to replace Who is Who. The aristos seldom invite JPs T & their homes but that doesn't mean they oppose the plump razzbombom lady: she is their "hard factor", chief NCO, there to squeeze the Maximum cash for themselves out of the estate. The rich drive keen bargains: the Duke of Westminster (earns £100,000 an hour) was fined for speeding: he asked for time to pay. Paul Hamlyn (£164 m), a German Jew, when asked by Thatcher toadies to suppress Spycatcher, said "Fifty less than a dukedom will do."

Frankie Hood in Tariq Ali's novel Redemption is based on the recently deceased Militant's Revolutionary Party veteran, Gerry Healy. Hood has equipped himself with an iron penis covered by a rubber sheath. When the sheath accidentally becomes detached during a sexual encounter with one of the young female party cadres, Hood is so enraged by the girl's laughter that he has a heart attack & dies.

Mark Urwellon's Teaching Little Fangs*. Another novel of the English teacher abroad. Little Fangs, trapped in the backwash of Yangtsun, has a passion for

*8 July 1989, p. 19 Marginalia. \ Foolish country yellow

learning English. In his mastery of the Jesuit dialectic of persuasion she sees possible escape. Each Sunday evening he holds "English Corner" with his friend Little Pang where they try out new phrases on each other & listen to the crackling broadcasts of the BBC & VOA. Fang has a comic passion for collecting words." Fang Dai Lucky with Pellatis... Another word he carefully transcribed into his pocket book was one which joined the morning's dreary floccinaucinihilipilification, floozie, cynic, cleavage & logodaedaly." When the tall, blond American, Jake Ellis, arrives in Yangzhou, he appears to embody Fang's long-cherished hope for Freedom. The graduate class of 88, waiting for their job assignments at the Bureau, whatever strings they can to influence a corrupt Communist bureaucracy, compete not only for Jake's friendship but also for the scholarship to an American University. Tiananmen Square disturbs the perspective. The Red Guards once "re-educated" a traitor committing the "dangerous crime" of reading Einstein & a Jack London novel by driving two huge needles into his eyes. Fang is left reflecting, "Yes, little Dong, they... consider our lives to be what is that rather splendid English word — floccinaucinihilipilification."

In A Room of One's Own Virginia Woolf fulminated about the "superior sprouts" "foliated like rosebuds" which were served with a cupful of claret in men's colleges, while women were offered only boiled cabbage & tea.

Philip Kerr, the Penguin Book's Life. Ignatius Loyola: "That we may be altogether of the same Mind & in conformity with the Church herself, if she shall

The hanging necktie as male genital display.

have defined anything to be black which to our eyes appears to be white, we ought in like manner to pronounce it to be black."

London Review of Books, 26 July 1990

R.W. Johnson: "And telling the truth is not just telling lies about your enemies; it's talking straight to your friends. The Gramscian intellectual, facing a moral dilemma over truth-telling within a political organisation, will feel that the cause & the organisation must always come first. But the Orwellian will feel that the truth must always come first": here was an avalanche of similar criticism about Bryan Gould, an essentially nice man, & I felt a little guilty about apparently having started this sort of nitpicking into action." Raymond Williams's self-delusion & self-inflation. Kinnock is "quite indefensibly" just a "student union politician": "The notion of him at Number Ten has much the same unrealistic feel as the idea of Jesse Jackson in the White House". In a country where untruth has been institutionalised & deliberation has become a way of life the story of James Fraser's life became good copy for any journalist like the readers-jokes Nouvelles Littéraires use letters on the deceased Sir James vendait son âme pour des fruits confits. The British public lapped up anecdotes about his ludicrously high-minded devotion to scholarship. Frazer also found himself lionised out to meet (& impress) an odd assortment of visiting dignitaries. What Frazer himself made of the occasions we do not know. In New York in 1940 The Golden Bough (an occult & neck-nuts Mein Kampf as best-selling reprint of the year. His Cambridge colleague Robertson Smith published Religion of the Semites just a year before The Golden Bough. Grant Allen's popular novel The Great Taboo

(1890), based explicitly on Frazer's book (whose first edition had appeared only months before), is a crude & simplified retelling of The Golden Bough & turns Frazer's metaphorical journey into a literal tale of travel & adventure. It is the story of a young English couple, Felix Hairston & Miss Muriel Ellis, washed overboard from a steamer in the South Seas & cast up on an island called Boupaki, where the religious habits of the natives are a close replica of those described by Frazer.

"The Darwin industry." Darwin spent more than his life as a semi-invalid. Even ordinary social occasions were apt to bring on a variety of depressing symptoms, including vomiting & palpitations. His complaint was never satisfactorily diagnosed or healed. Fortunately, for the sufferer, his symptoms declared themselves early in the last decade of his life. And subsequent commentators, still tantalised by the medical puzzle long after its practical solution had become moot, have offered a wide range of possible explanations.

Notabilities gathered in the Queen's Gallery to hear Richard von Weizsäcker, the President of West Germany, speaking a crystalline, perfectly enunciated English, spoke for about half an hour with restraint & the quiet earnest glamour gaily engaged upon serious things. He had been welcomed by Lord Chancellor Hailsham & Quentin Hogg's cavorting, playing to the gallery. Quoting Latin tags & cordially launching into German culture to compliment & patronize the guest. We should not forget "the contributions made to European civilization by Cant & Mendelsohn."

Ian Ousby, The Englishman's England: Taste, Travel & the Rise of Tourism: Tourist sites like Peele's Hole or Tintern Abbey very soon created a class of beggar-guides whom visitors found sickening, disturbing, & eventually blood-hardening: "there was not one true object of commiseration among the whole" (Wordsworth's Prelude man-handle praised the beauty of Mary Robinson, the "Maid of Buttermere," & that & the panegyric of her in Wordsworth's Fortnight's Ramble to the Lakes (1792) made her famous as an object of connoisseurship. But fame attracts notch-cutters, scalp-hunters. Poor Mary was deceived by a con-man later & decided at Carlisle, & then of course as a "type of innocence seduced," became even more of a tourist attraction than before. So she married & farmed & by 1819 figured in the Tourist's New Guide only as an "unlikely wife ... blessed with much good humour."

London Review of Books, 30 August, 1990.

I [Colin McGinn] had commented in the review that A. J. Ayer's present assessment of metaphysics was far more tolerant than that of his "earlier years", i.e. the "Vienna" of Language, Truth & Logic, written when he was a mere 26. His complaint was not, as might be expected, that I was here implying that his earlier rejection of metaphysics was merely callow: no, his objection was to what he took to be the suggestion that he was now callow. I pointed out to him that if he did not logically bear that entailment, any more than use of the phrase "younger days" would imply that he was now young. Freddie's clipped & deadpan mode of speech ("prahn" for "proposition"), mind & accent to young physicists (with an apparent tendency to

The term "Market Socialism" ("We can't run the shops better than the Tories"—Labour's latest slogan) is purest Newspeak.
~~Literature means nothing written or something only intended to get printed~~ so it will help them to publish books & get known.

vulnerability, personal distress, & strong need rather to be in the shade. Fluency & style & air & lucidity; thinking too fast for his subject-matter, skirting over difficulties, curiously exposed to bewilderment, keener to accompodation & victim. In the famous radio dialogue with Father Coplestone, Ayer undertakes the difficult task of defending logical positivism against a shrewd philosopher, and historian of philosophy, & the despised old school. It is clear now that Coplestone cleanly defeats Ayer's position, doing so with courtesy, clarity & intellectual discipline. At times Ayer plays the as his astute opponent diagnosing from one uninhabitable corner to another. Freddie Ayer liked three sorts of scoring: goals in football, points in philosophy, women in life. His passion for football was to really genuine. He belongs to a type abundantly exemplified on the American side of the Atlantic, opposed to by the Cognoscenti as the jock nerd: men of thwarted sporting ambition who sublimated their sporting intellectual instincts. This type is to be sharply distinguished from the nerd jock: the kind of man who finds himself good at sports he has to conceal his intellectual abilities from his fellow sportsmen. Competitive competitiveness from the former type, its absence from the latter (he got all that out of his system on the sports field). The jock nerd is always trying to score goals against his intellectual opponents. This type is far commoner in academic life than the real jock. Freddie Ayer tended to do philosophy as if it were a sport. The trouble is: it is not a sport. One of Desmond MacCarthy's favourite lines of poetry was Hartley Coleridge's

In the long perspective of history, the Thatchers are bound look nasty, British, & short. Kuwait has circulated its oil-genuflections to expose across the developing world to buy good will

"For I have lost the race I never ran" In Lemming's second issue, Lewis published an article that asked "What's wrong with Criticism?" MacCarthy's modest compilation Criticism (1932) handily outflies some of the answers. MacCarthy was perceived as the apotheosis of indolent metropolitan bookmanship. Shortly afterwards, Geoffrey Grigson received a large sum for him in Ned Nicholl's private zoo. He married at 29 & his bride Molly was not slow to join the chorus of reproach & put him in her novel, A Pier & a Band as the character Fitzgerald. Molly allowed herself to be talked into a "trivial" affair with Clive Bell. She had a hearing ailment. "the deaf wife of someone who thrived on conversation & theatre-going." The pair stuck together & were very close towards the end. Molly to Desmond "...I myself have almost daily for about a year a great wish to go to bed with you & am too proud seriously to ask for it..." Their son-in-law Lord David Cecil, edited a mild selection of MacCarthy's writings in 1984 A good deal of extravagant chaff is directed at the doctrine Grande Vie Edith Olivier leads in Paris as a violent contrast with the decorous existence of Lamb House, Henry James's snug Rye corner. In an illness, James apologizes for the brevity & lack of ornament: "Am forbidden 'style'." "Such, dearest Edith, are the short & simple annals of the poor" (an allusion to Gray's lines on the honest rustics) To the attractive cad Falleron she wrote that "mon corps ne peut pas oublier ton corps."

London Review of Books, August 16, 1990

Christopher Hitchens is famous for a sort of pyrotechnic brashness. He finds Americans "gee whiz" & "can't tell an hors d'oeuvre from a hole in the ground" & he has contempt for their

vulgarity & at the same time titillates them with an equal scorn for the conventional Republican & Anglo-culture dismissing Princess Di as a bimbo, mocking the Rhodes Scholarship with Ballial & generally slaughtering sacred cows like a pocket Rambo let loose with a gun in the cow-shed. In same ways, American newspapers are the world leaders in their field: they have pioneered news magazines, photo-news, muckraking, investigative reporting, etc. But the N.Y. Times & the Washington Post are full pages of leaden prose. In that context Hitchens shines forth like a naughty dog. Barbara Tuchman is bitingly described as "the doyenne of the middlebrow American talk circuit." He is even tough on the Kennedy caravan of intellectuals like Arthur Schlesinger, "courtiers & toadies" who lugged up their mess to such a degree that it is hard for them not to explain that JFK was also a cheat, who faked authorship of his books & lied over Cuba & his war record, & a tireless philanderer. His most furious barbs are reserved for Norman Podhoretz, editor of Commentary. Hitchens seems almost obsessed by him. It is a curious fact that Podhoretz, an immodest man who has much about which to be modest, so got under the skin of intellectuals in the '80s. He was definitively despatched by Gore Vidal. Conor Cruise O'Brien then took his turn at the coconut shy. And here is Hitchens, lobbing adjectives like grenades in the same cause. One can't easily imagine anyone wasting so much ink & anger over Ray, Bernard Levin — Britain's answer to Podhoretz, roughly speaking. He tends to go for easy targets.

Say NO, in Thunder.

The Reagan Administration, awash with corruption, ignorance & its own special brand of sleaze, kitsch-deck the Looney Tunes a single large easy target. It is fair enough to abuse Henry Kissinger for lying, hypocrisy & malpractice, but is Hitchens right to dismiss him as "a second-rate academic"? It may hurt to admit that people one loathes sometimes have high ability, but that doesn't mean it can't happen. Writing about Pol Pot, he sets in a throwaway dismissal of "the petit commerçant conspiracies of Georges Marchais" & of Glasgow Mid-understandings the most Stalinist Communist Left in the West. If even Marchais isn't sufficiently hard-line & ouvriériste for Hitchens, he's left with very little choice outside Albania & China. The Jesse Jackson show: Jackson's shameless opportunism, the dark period of his career in Chicago, his heroic Romania, etc. — all meat for the sort of slashing treatment Hitchens would be very good at. But no: this worthwhile subject is steadily ignored. Jackson's sometime adviser, the black anti-semite Louis Farrakhan belongs somewhere on that part of the far Left in the US. The hard fact of Pol Pot that Farrakhan builds on is the sense that Jews have somehow escaped their victim status at the expense of the blacks. Hitchens is good value on the American cult of Churchill, but stands for a sort of disembodied "gaitness" as a high-cast, good-taste Rambo with rhetorical subtitles. Strange one's main model had. Caspar Weinberger has a virtual Churchill Desk, the possessor of a vast collection of Churchiliana, while one of Reagan's first acts was to order a portrait of WC to be hung at the centre of the White House "situations room", to give moral inspiration in the fight

Your book will keep its shelf life long after it's been pulped.

against the Evil Empire. Do solemnly pledge such a risk, however grateful one is for the favor?

Simenon's method of work: the deliberate choice of name & backgrounds for his characters, undergoing a medical check, getting Mme. Simenon to clean dozens of pipes, sharpening 80 pencils & then immuring himself in a locked room for exactly 11 days, at the end of which he emerged bearing the same shirt as when he went in but bearing a finished manuscript. & concentrated bout of sexual activity followed: paused to change his shirt, he drove into town & took a selection of young women he referred to as "dancers".

Sir Hubert Rhodes had a genius for getting things narrowly wrong. The tree he marked up was always the one that stood next to the right tree.

Prostitution remained illegal, but its practitioners were tolerated provided they registered with the authorities. One registered, a woman could either set herself up as an independent operator, in which case was known as a fille en carte & received a special ID. Or she could join a maison de tolérance as a fille à numéro. Women for almost the whole 19th century turned to prostitution because the social structure of the time created an enormous demand & a profitable industry. They moved between other occupations & prostitution because the latter paid. In the eyes of their apologists, prostitutes were the means that kept respectable French society clean, sweet & wholesome. Later prostitution came instead to represent the spectre of syphilis. The Contagious Diseases Acts were fiercely opposed by Josephine Butler & her Ladies National Association as an assault on the dignity & liberty of the prostitutes themselves.

For better or worse, he stands apart – even aloof – from the tradition of British philosophy. Or perhaps for better & worse
capable of subverting the tyranny of a dimwit type of rationality.

"No wonder," Mrs Thatcher has repeatedly remarked of the Windsors, "they stand on ceremony: what else have they got?" Prince Philip's concern for the disadvantaged has not exactly endeared himself to the Conservative Central Office. As Norman Tebbit observed, it is not surprising that the Duke is so sympathetic towards the unemployed: he is the way of being one of them himself.

In "Punishment & Forgiveness", Collingwood argues that punishment is not merely consistent with forgiveness but ultimately indistinguishable from it, because both are alike intended to bring the wrongdoer back into the moral community. "If labour-saving is what you want, give up all this trouble about thinking: go mad & have done with it." People do not really like the truth: they feel coerced by reason, bullied by fact. Truth limits your freedom, in a way, because it reduces your belief-options & forces you to go against its natural inclinations. This is the most psychological cause of the relativistic view of truth.

London Review of Books, 13 Sept. 1990

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Anthony Eden should be living at this hour. He would face the President of the USA & say: "Half a century ago the world had the chance to stop a ruthless aggressor & missed it. I pledge to you we will not make the mistake again." The diplomatic timeclock needs time – in the case of days & weeks – to get into place. Then as now the interval could be filled with political & diplomacy, but at the end of it weapons should in theory be prepared for battle to be joined.

John Sutherland, Mrs Humphry Ward: Eminent Victorian, Pre-Eminent Edwardian. "No Arnold can write a novel; if they could, I should have done it." Mat'zo Matthew Arnold's reaction to his niece's first significant attempt at fiction, Miss Bretherton (1884). Her father, Tom, had alienated the prosperity of his family & the happiness of his wife by his conversion & unconscionable reconversions to & from the Catholic faith. Mary's clerical childhood marked her for life. She never lost the ~~self~~ stubborn self-will that had so displeased her still more self-willed father. She made herself one of the most famous & highly paid women of her day. Robert Elsmere was a publishing prodigy. She used her literary status to make herself a public figure, campaigning for women's education (though never their emancipation), & for a richer life for working people (though never higher wages). Mark Pattison's influence won her access to the stacks of the Bodleian. It was a rare privilege for a young woman in the 1860s. George Eliot was not the woman that Mary Ward wanted to be; her unsanctified union with Lewes meant that she was hardly respectable. If she could not be a don, she could be a don's wife. Humphry Ward, a hopeful young fellow of Brasenose College & a protégé of Walter Pater, was initially less honoured, though he became devoted to her later. Exasperated by her opposition to Women's Suffrage, Somerville Hall (Mary suggested the name) came to repudiate its association with Mrs Ward. "Beloved Henry James" took to her in a puzzled sort of way — "somehow, I don't, especially when talking art & literature, communicate with her worth a damn. All the same, she's a dear."

Many to proliferating ailments were at various times dealt by fashionable doctors with arsenic, strychnine, morphia & cocaine. Far more grievous was the fall from grace of her only son Arnold, the hope of the family. He drank & became a compulsive gambler.

"Quality films", but not art films. The measure is Hollywood & sales not reviews & critical prestige. Quality is not synonymous with money but it isn't really separable from it either. The trick is to make money out of quality rather than out of trash, & can Oscars is how you know the trick has worked.

London Review of Books, 27 Sept 1990

Andrei Sakharov, Memoirs. In 1973 he told foreign correspondents that the Soviet Union was "a country behind a mask of closed totalitarian society". He omits any mention of the profession of his ancestors & his own gradual detachment from orthodoxy. His cold & distant description of his wife Klava reminds one of Einstein's heartless reference to his wife in his correspondence with Max Born. There is little a single joke in the 600-page book.

Ever since the Trojan Horse, the telling of lies in wartime has been found honourable. & sanctioned economy of truth.

Mourir pour le Coca-Cola. "Mourir pour le pétrole.

Peter Ackroyd, Dickens. Dickens laboured tirelessly to make himself publicly famous & at the same time to bury the private Dickens beyond all extirpation. Too Kaplan & his university-based colleagues biographies,

the legal case, as with the hard evidence of diary entries & interminable ex-mistress. No Aspern papers, no Aspern biography. Ackroyd thinks Dickens, he knows Dickens so intimately, the man knew himself better, perhaps, since Dickens was so dependent on self-knowledge. He, for instance, can read the "clutching" expression on the dead Dickens face on the Gads Hill death mask through mistress-expert Kate Dickens—who suffered a cerebral haemorrhage—etched in a state of miserable confusion & exasperation. Ackroyd, like Dickens, is "creative genius", & understands his subject better than bespectacled academics. But "real knowledge" gained through inspired intuition. There are blatantly interludes or interchapters, & the fifth interlude recounts a face-to-face meeting between Dickens & Ackroyd. The degree of originality which the 37th full-length biography of Dickens can have is limited. What is novel (novelistic) is Ackroyd's idea that for 13 years Dickens & Ellen Ternan could sustain the same ~~for~~ forgery postures of tragic-passionate love, like the lovers on Keats's urn. Not that, of course, our difference By the end of the 13 years Ackroyd's Ellen would have been no longer "a young idealised Virgin" but a spinster of ~~last~~ class on old Maidhood. Thomas Wright first advanced the theory that Ellen's resistance to Dickens's lust inspired Estella's frigidity in Great Expectations. The cock-tease appears suddenly in Dickens's fiction, disappears as suddenly, lends credence to the hypothesis that he finally got his way with Ellen.

an underclass of long-term & unemployed & perpetually poor.

Robespierre was indignant when people cried for bread. The Revolution has given them the right to many: why should they now cry for bread." But people must have bread or they catch the endemic ~~disease~~ disease of revolutions: disenchantment. Walicki says that democracy might have to be suspended to allow economic reforms to succeed. Things were so bad in the forties that Germans felt they could only get better. The new intellectuals of the Right, particularly the born-again atomists for the rabid radicalism of their youth, have become ardent Thatcherites.

London Review of Books, 25 oct. 1990.

The Kremlin lost its faith in its own capacity & right to govern, a process I doubt which was to be ~~be~~ into the timbers of every other Communist regime in (Europe Eastern) Gorbachev, who came from the KGB, is the first Soviet leader without adult experience of foreign military invasion. The economic growth by official figures was a mirage. The elites have access to Party stores stocked with Western goods.

Bert Hölldobler & E. O. Wilson, The Ants. Pheromones — that is to say, gland-ular secretions released as signals by one ant & received by another of the same species — play the central role in the organization of the ant society. Wilson mentions six key exocrine glands which can produce alkanes, alcohols, ketones, esters, acids & lactones — to mention only a few. Pheromonal communication includes trail-laying, alarm signals, attraction, recruitment, recognition of mates, caste determination, sexual communication, etc. Wilson pinpoints the problem: how can natural selection produce selfish genes

but describe unselfishness as "altruism"? The examples of the bodily self-denying behaviour performed for the benefit of the colony are mainly: foraging bodies, all of which engaged in dangerous searches for food outside the colony, usually falling prey to spiders & robber flies. Whereas humans send their young men to war, the more successful ants send their old ladies.

Whenever the old suggestion of "double-Crossman" comes up, Anthony Hern (Crossman: The Pursuit of Power) is at pains to put the case for the defence. Edward Cockburn's dirgeful: "Here lies the body of Dick Double-Crossman, / Classified as a political flair, / Favoured by fortune he got back a hop / When out of the hounds, he ran with the hare." Ambitious phony. John Betjeman on Dick: "Broad of Church & Broad of Mind, / Broad Before & Broad Behind." "Dick" competes with Auden for the affections of a rubber-plant (Gabriel Carritt). He had a frustrated admiration for the Nazis. He began to form an Labour's side needed his opportunist profile, which accordingly he was eager to keep occluded, became more pronounced with every slight in hare-hound relations. When even the backbench rebels: "Everybody is allowed one vote before it becomes licence is revoked". He identified (in Towards Socialism in 1965) a Mobile Labour Condition known as "ex-ministeritis."

21 Gilbert Ryle, so it is said, thought Schopenhauer & Rodichevsky the most sensible authors he knew, & the two also wrote the best. Rodichevsky reminded Richard Osborne of the character of a quotation: "Smiling,

always eager to spurn a fallen idol.

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the boy fell dead. Mr Osborne, really.' I thought everyone knew Robert Browning's poem 'An Incident in the French Camp': 'Jena Lieutenant comes to Napoleon with the news that they have taken Ratisbon. Napoleon feels pleased. He notices that the young man isn't looking pleased himself. 'You're wounded!' 'Nay,' the soldier's pride / Touched to the quick, he said: / 'I'm killed, Sire.' And his chief Beside / Smiling the boy fell dead.' " 'I thought everyone knew' has nothing aside about it. No secret pleasure in being one up – intellectuals looking for errors in the upper kind it hard to forgive Wodehouse for being so apparently sunny & straightforward." I read a book about Dickens that day Robin pointed out that D. has still not only gaily about stagecoaches etc. long after railway had become in. I don't believe it matters & I intend to go on leaving it to the critics, let the chips fall where they may." He was the reverse of clubbable, & indeed resigned from the Garrick. He hated company – the voice of Bertie's Uncle Tom "Over the shoulder haggard look it means when he hears that guests are expected for the weekend" he said in public not hardly to recognise that the pair that sex & brutality & faeces & fascism are deliberately exploited there to achieve the same end as the "escapist" literature of the old style.

London Review of Books, 8 November 1990.

A. J. P. Taylor was famous as the only British historian to have come to a popular audience beyond the Reading Room. When attacked, he could certainly give as good as he got. A Getting Better Battle was the intellectual bully of Political History provided the facts & the drama & the not-entirely, economic;

religion, & soon — are refreshing interruptions like drinks at the bar during the interval. He took over his failure to obtain the Regius Chair of History at Oxford (after had been "followed by a seismic controversy over his book on the origins of the Second World War. He was a devoted wife & [illegible] could not abide the sight of the motorist in front; he simply had to overtake.

He sort of joke about knowing the famous was called by Mrs Lewis as "flash-rabbit." When Jane Cobden took up his suggestion that "the Old Countess Duchess" [Margaret] was Cambridge' & said to him: "What about Rutherford & Cavendish?" Lewis's flash eyes, cashed this decisive recruitment & after some seconds he came back with "That was a Calculated risk[illegible]..."

Lacan: "La psychanalyse est un remède contre l'ignorance. Elle est sans effet contre la connerie". In the Freudian Slip (1976) the eminent textual critic Sebastiano Timpanaro describes Freud's method as not merely unscientific but anti-scientific. Peter Medawar castigated psychoanalysis as "the most stupendous intellectual confidence trick of the 20th century."

[Exeunt] — Henry IV, Pt II

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." That wistful echo of Shakespeare's from 1066 And All That is the essential summary of the royalty-jacket. Stage-management became necessary to shield the British people from the true character of their Monarch-to-be. Edward's genius was equivocal & was the only part of him inclined to disregard class distinctions

* Per Contra, cf. "The poor Muskens ... may change a little one into a big one — turn an Officer into an Omega — to give themselves a little extra pleasure (i.e. by masturbation)" — H. H. Plors M. Bastel & P. Bachelor Woman. (Cf. E. J. Prigmore, II, p. 47).

In 1916 he had been firmly but delicately relieved of his virginity by a Beach Boy in Amiens, procured for the purpose by an Officer in the RFC. The pattern — of other Chaps' girls & of the most complaisant — seems to have been imprinted early. The smoking room joke that Wallis Simpson "could make a toothpick feel like a Havana cigar."* Several reports shape him literally grovelling at the feet of his MPs's.

Claire Tomalin, The Invisible Woman: The Story of Nelly Ternan & Charles Dickens. Dickens's son Henry & Ellen Ternan's son Geoffrey Robinson destroyed all the correspondence between the two. Scholars have had to squeeze Dickens's only surviving diary — that for 1867 — like a tiny sponge for every drop of information it can yield. Dickens first met Nelly as a professional actress for his production of The Frozen Deep, in Aug. 1857. She was 18, he was 45. His marriage — which had produced 10 children & lasted 22 yrs — was on the rocks. A basket intended for Nelly was misdirected to Mrs Dickens, precipitating a row. In 1858, Dickens separated from Catherine. It was widely suspected that his sister-in-law, Georgina Hogarth, who idolised him & lady-ed the indignity of a divinity left, to suppose what would have been incest as well as adultery. Thackeray told his mother: "It's such a thing — it's both an actress." Nelly's very wonderful career on the stage came to an end at this period, but her fortune rose. By the age of 21, she owned a fine 4-storey house. She rattled me pair by Dickens under the false name "Tringham." In 1865, Nelly & her mother rose accompanying Dickens in a train that crashed at Staplehurst in Kent, with loss of life. Dickens

went to some lengths to conceal the identity of his young companion to
Ellen Ternan's jewellery she had to look. She was dying. Dickens left her £1,000.
Ellen allegedly composed one novel (a thinly disguised account of
Dickens
their affair) & a clergyman
late in life when she was a respectable married man. She also allegedly
told the Rev. J. M. Benham Hill Dickens embraced (and disguised)
her. Her mother, Frances Ternan, was a successful actress. Ellen
was supported by for 13 dubious years. In 1876 she "reinvented herself"
She left the intervening 8 years of her age — aided by her theatrical
skills & a girlish appearance. She travelled extensively abroad. In 1876
she married a probably unworthy schoolmaster & had legitimate children.
Her husband's alcohol failed. He died penniless, but she kept the
family afloat & decent. After her death her son George made an
unfortunately catastrophic discovery in her papers. He (who
She bore to her Benson with Dickens probably died in Feb. or early
summer 1883. Intelligent, sensible, morally practical, she learned
the years with Dickens as a kept woman. She knew Jezebel. Even
less was she Estella, the shallow, indicative of hundreds of men
Hall Edmund Wilson sophisticated.

Wonder Record of Books / 10 Jan. 1991

Henry Ford put up the money for a conference on "The Languages of Criticism & the
Sciences of Man" held at Johns Hopkins in Oct. 1966, established American appro-
priation as the sugar-daddy of Deconstruction (a role it has since
sustained with the generous provision of endowed chairs). J. Hillis Miller,
Miller, then teaching at Hopkins, was the sponsoring connection. De Man was not,

A Labour Minister of Transport said he didn't know much about shooting but as a railwayman he knew all about shunting & hooting.

Though not prominently so. He did, however, back a Jonathon Culler decided the memorable part-Jonson: "It is difficult to reply because you question my own relationship to what I say." Over the next few years post-Structuralism swept throughout the American literary-critical profession like wildfire. Miller was the first to jump up. The Geneva critics faded away in his writings. Dickens, the subject of his first book (1958), was duly re-historicized in terms of Derridean "rhetoric" rather than Poulletian "mind." Miller is often accused of opportunism in his conversions. Most people think one or two a lifetime quite enough. Miller has undergone four. He became chairman of the English department at Yale in 1970. Here he was a disciple of Paul de Man, next door in the French Department. With de Man & his other colleagues, Geoffrey Hartman & Harold Bloom, he achieved the national prominence of the "Yale school of criticism"—a prominence certified in 1985 with a wildly overwritten lament in the New York Times ("The Tyranny of the Yale Critics"). In 1986 Miller accepted the presidency of the MLA—the highest honour the profession has to offer. In his presidential address he asserts the "triumph of theory" achieved principally by himself & de Man. More significantly, it was American theory. Miller had at last fixed himself past any sense of national inferiority. "Although literary theory may have its origin in Europe, we export it in a new form, along with other American products all over the world—as we do many of our scientific & technological inventions, for example, the atomic bomb." He was playing off all his years of discipleship to foreigners with a cathartic outburst of high Americanism. His confidence took a terrible shock in January 1987, when Ortwin de Graef discovered the wartime essays of Paul de Man. Miller, with Derrida, lined up

In Dec. 1983, Paul de Man died from cancer. Nine years later, Miller moved from Yale to Irvine, a new campus of the University of California. The terms of the appointment were opulent ("$91,000 annual salary, subsidized housing & freedom from administrative chores.")

as his dead friend's main apologist. He wrote a courageous piece in the TLS, 17-23 June 1988. More significantly he issued a redefinition of Deconstruction that was so cut back as to make nonsense of what he had been advocating & practicing for years. "Deconstruction is not nihilistic, nor anti-humanist, nor mere play of language in the void... nor is it concerned to the tedious level that readers of critics once felt it to make texts mean anything they like." Miller nowadays is primarily concerned with the "ethics" of his profession. "The proper ethical decision that a teacher of literature should make... is to teach the irrelevance of the thematic assertions of even the most apparently morally concerned literature for the making of moral decisions... A study of the rhetoric of literature, that might be called 'literariness'..." The Japanese, having so efficiently caught up with us in other respects, may by now have come into line with the use of the handkerchief. Only the other day a highly cultivated Japanese professor confided to Frank Kermode that the habit of public nose-blowing was a sufficient reason why he could never live in the West — many could never fill the pieces of cloth. The royal suite of Room 7 at the Stock Hotel, apartment to the operation of "the lower bodily stratum" of Mikhail Bakhtin:

"I am like a pipe stem, & the World is a gigantic ass-hole. We will probably let go each other soon."

Adorno & Horkheimer allowed their image of first sight to become its own myth. Los Angeles as the crystal ball of Capitalism's future. They as exhibited as little interest as their fellow exile Brecht in the frantic turmoil in the local aircraft plants or the vibrant night-life in the

Central Avenue ghetto. As they put it in the Dialectic of Enlightenment: "even now, the older houses outside the concrete door core slums, & the bungalows outside the concrete city centre door core slums, & the new bungalows on the outskirts are at once with the flimsy structures of world fairs in their praise of technical progress & their built-in demand to be discarded after a short while core empty food cans". Real-estate promotion: "the power of sunsunshine reinvigorate the racial energies of the Anglo-Saxons.

The Labour Member of Parliament that Tories disdainfully call "chippy", or christen "the Politics of envy", (envy in the Tories' jowels & their tone of manner), has often been their secret weapon in class war. John Braine, over fond of reading his days as a working-class Yorkshire Socialist lad, turned all chippy & said: "You 'ate me dearnt yer? 'Cos I've not bin to uni-i-ver-sity!" The clash-hate relationship between Thatcher & Murdoch, which the gives the Tories two birds with no stone, would be study in itself. In the past, the rule that Prime Ministers had invoked reason was that the Cabinet could argue strenuously in private, but in public a united front must be presented. Mrs Thatcher used the Cabinet in precisely the opposite way: Cabinet discussions were kept to a minimum, whilst she reserved the right to make public her disagreement with her own ministers.

In something of Myself Kipling mocks, or finds others to mock, his own profoundly unmetaphoric capacity. He there tells how his contented categorising of Kim as society-like picaresque: "That was good enough for Cervantes was good enough for him". He was robustly censored by that formidable presence, "the Mother": "Don't you stand in your

Wool-boots hiding behind Cervantes with me! You heard You couldn't in your book make a plot to save your soul" Appropriately, we never meet the women Mrs Battersby Who gives the story its drama. It is worth noting that the Anglo-Indian, more or less upper-middle-class Kipling never gets his Cockney guide right—he writes the wrong Punch Limey of the period Frank Medekind: "Die sexuelle Perversität, Ich habe sie länger übernommen—/ Und dennoch, ich verzeihe nie, Es waren doch Soldaten Studenten" His Diary on Indian Life is a record of those happy days between 1908 & 1918. Riding in the afternoon, he would pick up a girl, buy her a drink, or a meal if he couldn't afford it, take her home or go home with her, have sex in every way he could devise, get up, find another girl, take her to another bar, take her home—& so on, notching up perhaps 5 or 6 girls in 24 hours (sometimes they came in pairs).

Virginie Despentes's Femmes lands with the dull thud of a loose baggy Monster"; consisting of a 550-page Monologue forgoing Syntax & Sentence structure to produce the effect of continuous aposiopesis. It is a kiss-&-tell epic—the confession of a Don Juan among the post-structuralists & also an explicit roman à clef containing mildly scandalous & instantly recognizable portraits of Lacan, Althusser, Barthes & others. These are well-known to Alberto Moravia, Anthony Burgess (who appears under his own name) & the clumsily-veiled author of the Hommes & the New Eve: "Angela Lobster!" Will, the narrator, is an American journalist on intimate terms with the French intelligentsia. He keeps an orgasm notebook "which records his sexual exploits. The orgasms are well made, freely but restored

elevated to decorative impotence. I woke up screaming, like Philip Larkin at the thought of being made Poet Laureate

on him by his women friends. He is a man on the run, pursued by the international feminist conspiracy which hides under such acronyms as FAM (Fem. for the Autonomy of the Matrix & WOMANCIDE (World Organisation for Male Annihilation & a New Nativity). He was a one-time Maoist & now dabbles in theology & Catholic mysticism.

London Review of Books 24 Jan. 1991

More than 20 yrs ago Perry Anderson wrote an article explaining that the history of Europe had decided to stay here. America got real radicals like Marcuse & his Frankfurt colleagues. Britain got reactionary liberals or worse like Namier, Hayek, Popper, Oakeshott, Wittgenstein & Berlin. The Establishment yawned on. Rem.

The Second Socialist Revolution: An Alternative Soviet Strategy

Tatyana Zaslavskaya: "I became a 'supporter of restructuring' several years before the word 'perestroika' was uttered for the first time". She was one of the small group of intellectuals whose critique of the Soviet economy convinced Gorbachev that there was an alternative to destructive

In the Brezhnev days she was subjected to a barrage of abuse, & given a formal Party reprimand. The old Russian joke: "We'll pretend to work & they'll pretend to pay us" Most Russians are not interested in freedom or democracy but prefer a low level of subsistence as long as it is guaranteed & no other Russian has much more.

Pasternak was told that he could go to Stockholm to accept the Nobel Prize but only on condition that he never again returned to USSR.

The Mayakovsky Museum on Lubiansky Drive, just across from KGB Headquarters on Dzerzhinsky Square. "Homeward": "I want

some off-the-cuff judgments provoke disagreement.
"We don't want to lose you but we think you ought to go."

the per/to equal the gen,/to be listed/with/son/in industry/and the Polit Bureau's agenda:/Item #1/to be Stalin's Report on/"The Defect of Poetry." The Mayakovsky museum was entirely empty on the afternoon of our visit. A few days late, I went back by myself & again I was the only visitor

Shake Thine Laurels by Cyril Connolly & Peter Levi: Connolly worked on this novel for years, leaving it unfinished. Peter Levi, who married his widow, has brought the tale to an end. An ancient lord called "Le Congrès" installed discontented French wives to compel their husbands, accused of malformation & impotence, to cavort with them before witnesses.

Despite her gushing manner Frieda was remarkably close-mouthed about the last facts of her marriage to Lawrence. She had at least 7 lovers before & during her marriage to Lawrence. Lawrence: "Reaction to any force is the complement of that force."

Literary Review, Dec. 1990

Larkin left a small canon of fairly good poems with instructions that all unpublished material should be destroyed. Such instructions from the grave, unenforceable in law, have a peculiarly rapid facility. Where are good persons? Why the dead should not be allowed to dictate the future conduct of the living. When lawyers start invoking Morality, one is bound to take notice, as when politicians start drawing attention to their patriotism.

Fanny Kemble published her Plantation Journal during the American civil war, at which time it was considered "the most powerful anti-slavery document ever

She scored box a fanuel & became top box office in Hollywood
Posturing as a Mandarin of High Culture
Pierce Butler

Woolen." By then she was separated from the husband she had grown to despise.
In *The Feminist Companion to Literature in English*, by Virginia Blain, Patricia Clements & Isobel Grundy, the novelist's mother's name is put before her father's to strengthen the sense of female ~~intruita~~ inheritance. The prevalence of male pseudonyms, opened as camouflage. The editors are courteous enough to leave Anita Brookner with the year of birth she chose for herself, even though it would mean that she had gained her Doctorate at the age of 15.
In Lynn Pan's *Sons of the Yellow Emperor: The story of the Overseas Chinese*, she speaks of the people living in Hong Kong as "treaty port Chinese, a type last seen in pre-1949 Shanghai".

London Review of Books, 11 Oct. 1990.

Intellectual aristocracy occupied the commanding heights in the previous decade generation. Richard Hoggart, "the former soldier, extra-mural lecturer" at the *Lady Chatterley* trial succeeded, to the amazement & amusement of "Our Age" [title of Noel Annan's *Portrait of a Generation*], in putting down "the Treasury Counsel from Eton & Cambridge". The official line on Aids is not that we should be chaste, merely that we should be prudent. The posters in Geneva said, *Sage & prudent: Stop Sida*. The space in the O of STOP being filled by a Condom. Then they were replaced by very similar poster saying, *Sage & fidèle, STOP SIDA*, with a wedding ring in the hole instead of a condom. To adapt a text Maxwell Bodenham Carpenter apocalyptically about Cromwell, "If these the times, then the [Thatchers] must be human."

the great jail-break of Eastern Europe.

In Lolita, Dolores Haze was not a virgin when she first had intercourse with Humbert Humbert. Indeed it was she initiated sex by the 13-yr-old Charlie Holmes, who led the way.
Philip Kerr, in The Penguin Book of Lies, to utter a lie or to be economical with the truth. On the question of who discovered America Emerson wrote that Amerigo Vespucci "managed in two lying words to cuff'es Columbus & baptize half the world with his own dishonest name," thus contriving to libel the unfortunate Vespucci. Through the persona of Krebs in "Soldier's Home" he exploded his own myth for mendacity: "To be listened to at all he had to lie ..." Tale is more important than truth — "the willing suspension of disbelief" — Coleridge's phrase, is applicable to many newspaper readers. Dickens went out of his way to assure his readers that what they read in Oliver Twist was "the TRUTH." In the conventional mode of writing, or telling it all hangs on, "Je n'accuse ni Dolly d'escuse," but makes the reader feel he must be telling the truth. No wonder book-wise readers & critics tend to be cautious: the whole conception of truth is all made up by the media. Churchill remarked that truth in wartime was "so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies", assuming that truth, like right, must be on one's side: enemy truth, attended by SS bodyguard, must be a false creature. As Orwell said, faith in the truth leads to lying. Since the Party is always right, the conjuction of deliberate lies is a moral duty. "When my love swears that she is made of truth/ I do believe her, though I know she lies." Tom Stoppard

Comrade Princess: Memoirs of an Aristocrat in Modern Russia, by Ekaterina Meshcherskaya (the only surviving Russian Princess living in Russia, aged 85)

Paley's plea for "falsehoods that are not lies". Even lies by the virtuous can even seem to absolve the wicked. So many a tale told by the land & the media, & then exposed by other media, has terrorists in plagarate can appear like innocent victims.

Even those who did not write off the Arabs as "a degenerate race" were justifiably exasperated by Arab irrationalities, non-arrival times & as promised & needed (their Shirley Williams penalties), as well as their convoluted venality. Hitler's mockery & Lawrence's ignorance of history is kin to the linguistic flair for speaking to the French in shouted English. Everybody dawdled dealt — the British, the Arabs & the French. T. E. Lawrence does every bit as manipulative as any Foreign Office mandarin doing a deal with the French over Syria.

Frank Kermode An Appetite for Poetry The title comes from Valéry's remark about certain "men with no great appetite for poetry". Kermode cites it in reference to certain old advocates of scientific study of literature (Wellek & Frye) & some of the current purveyors of literary theory (Culler & Eagleton). "Appetite" suggests an intake more intimate than "hunger" & less aesthetic than "taste". ... Brake Theory puffing away in silk hat & bristle tends concertedly to miss the "poetry" that gives the literary work its unique value.

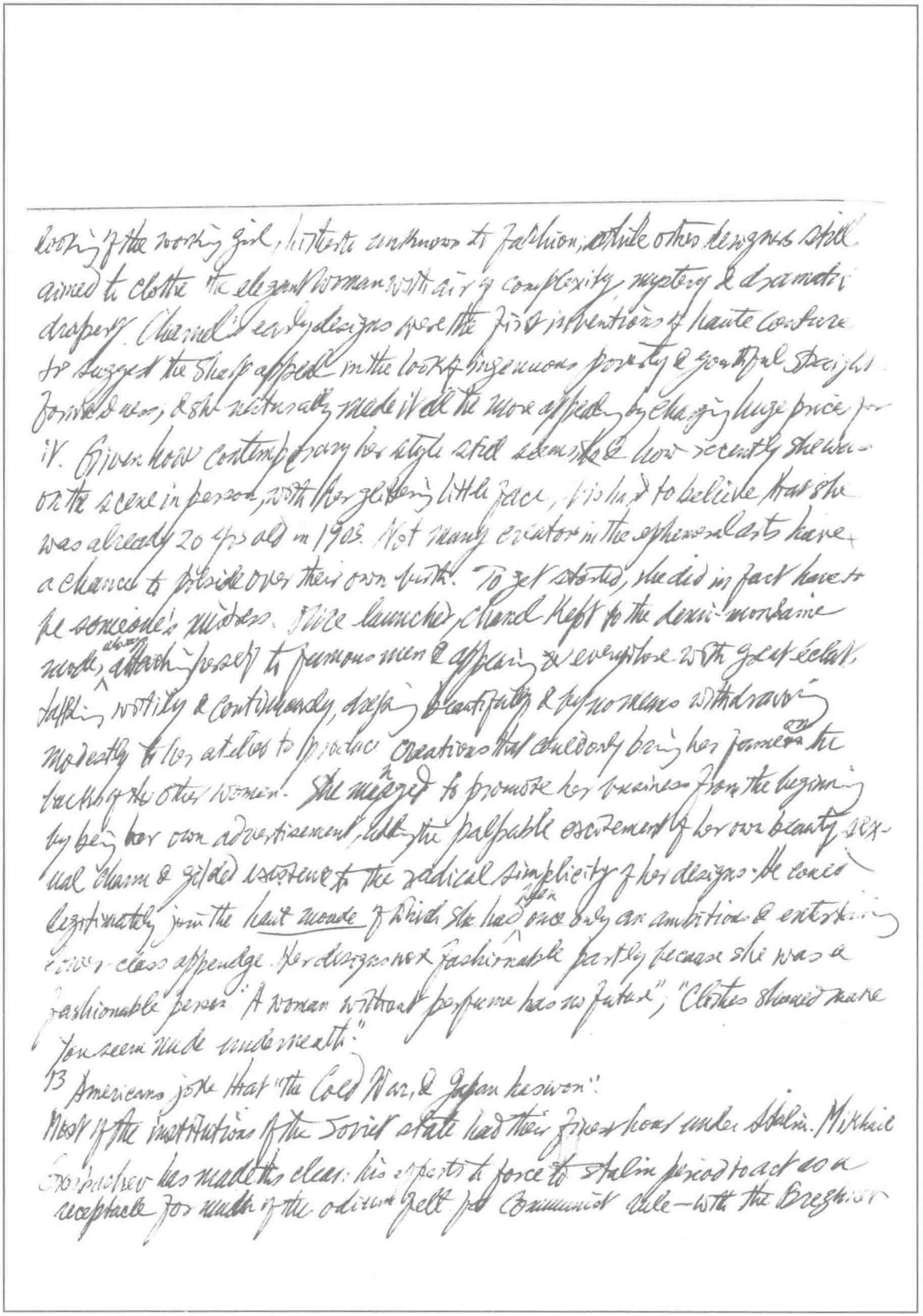
London Review of Books 6 Dec 1990

3. Elisabeth Roudinesco, Jacques Lacan & Co: A History of Psychoanalysis in France, 1925-1985, tr. Jeffrey Mehlman. Freud: "In Paris itself the

conviction seemed to reign ... that even 'good' work in psychoanalysis is a repetition of Janet's views with insignificant modifications, & that everything else is bad." Despite early interest by the Surrealists, there was no French psychanalytic society until 1926, & for over a quarter of a century it remained small, its members badly stigmatized by their medical peers. The French had rejected psychoanalysis as a German import or an American import. In the 60's all this seemed to change. The May 1968 events were a festival of speech & desire. In the context of May, Lacanianism had a special cachet. It was linked to Althusser's Marxism & Dali's Surrealism. Anti-establishment & anti-American in his politics, Lacan became the symbol of a large protest. There was even a story of Lacan patting the student leader Daniel Cohn-Bendit in the back of his own Jaguar & successfully smuggling him across the border into Germany his own Lion-in-Law. Jacques-Alain Miller, Lacan's son-in-law, was put in the place of Freud had made his daughter Anna his Antigone. The International Psychoanalytic Association would no longer tolerate Lacan's experiments with analytic technique — in particular, his practice of short sessions, sometimes only 5 minutes in length. In June 1964 Lacan founded the Freudian School (École freudienne de Paris) which welcomed non-analysts as members. Cahiers pour l'Analyse built up a theoretical Lacanism, concerned with logic, formalism & science. Despite all reference to the psychological subject, it was the vanguard for the Lacanian colonization of the world beyond psychoanalysis. While Lacan produced concepts that were deliberately ambiguous & open to multiple interpretation, Miller sought to rationalize them.[5] Miller became a committed Maoist, a member of La Gauche Prolétarienne. In 1981 he married the King's beloved daughter, Judith

Lacan. Lacan's weekly seminar transcripts were edited by Miller for publication Le Séminaire. The documents are authored by Miller & guaranteed by Lacan. In the course of this book, Lacan is dependent on Miller's pen. Miller was no mere scribe; he "established" the text. The Freudian School, dominated by Miller, became increasingly factionalised. Lacan was withdrawn & silent. Freud could create psychoanalytic organisations as long as he owned them. Lacan was stunned that those should be any question of the Freudian School not belonging to him. Lacan received letters from people wanting to continue with him, or in his terms, père-sévère persévère with a severe, punishing & severing father. Millerites spoke of Lacan as a pitiable clown. The School was then formed into a political party, & Miller into its Mao who used a senile Lacan as a rubber stamp. In 1981 Miller started the new School of the Freudian Cause. Lacan sent a copy of his 1932 thesis to Freud: a case-study of paranoia & exhibitionism which made him famous in France among Marxists, Surrealists & psychiatrists. Freud sent Lacan a postcard acknowledging his receipt of the gift with polite indifference: "Thank you for sending your thesis."

Gabrielle ("Coco") Chanel is famous for the Little Black Dress, the Chanel Suit & Chanel No. 5. The three can effectively sum up the Modern Woman, suggesting female elegance without prettiness & feminine allure & whalebone. She celebrated inventions clothe a female creature who is all the more sexually interesting for being nobody's doll, besides being nobody's fool. Even further, the suggestion is that we are seduced sexually by the deep pleasure of self-control & body shape. If was the



Lucy of the working girl, hitherto unknown in fashion, while others designers still aimed to clothe the elegant woman with air of complexity, mystery & dramatic drapery. Chanel's early designs use the first inventions of haute couture to suggest the sharp appeal in the look of ingenuous poverty & youthful straightforwardness, & thus naturally made it all the more appealing by charging huge price for it. Given how contemporary her style and ideas are, & how recently she was on the scene in person, with her gleaming little face, it is hard to believe that she was already 20 yrs old in 1905. Not many creators in the ephemeral arts have a chance to preside over their own birth. To get started, she did in fact have to be someone's mistress. She launched Chanel Kept to the demi-mondaine mode, & attach herself to famous men & appear everywhere with great éclat, dazzling notably & controversially, always beautifully & by no means withdrawn modestly to her atelier to produce creations that could only bring her fame in the tracks of the other women. She merged to promote her business from the beginning by being her own advertisement, with the palpable excitement of her own beauty, sexual charm & gilded insolence to the radical simplicity of her designs. She once legitimately join the haut monde of which she had once only an ambition & existed on its demi-class appendage. Her designs were fashionable partly because she was a fashionable person. "A woman without perfume has no future", "Clothes should make you seem nude underneath."

13 Americans joke that "the Cold War, & Japan has won".

Most of the institutions of the Soviet state had their first hour under Stalin. Mikhail Gorbachev has made this clear: his efforts to force the Stalin period to act as a receptacle for much of the odium felt for Communist rule—with the Brezhnev

"era of stagnation" in support—have succeeded only in showing that effective Communism can have no dynamic outside of Stalinism. Communism is about the creation of utopia—otherwise defined as the end of history. If history does not move its script, it must forced to act as if it did, dragged by the scruff of its neck towards an always glorious, but always receding, climax. Anatoli Lunacharsky: those leaders who believe in the possibility of utopia would be shirking their civic duty if they did not terrorise their citizens into acceptance. Stalin did not shrink from his civic duty. He fashioned Soviet state security, already an instrument of terror under Lenin, into the largest machine of repression against the citizens of the state that the world has seen. Richard Sorge; Teodor Maly, the Hungarian-born agent who spotted Kim Philby's talents in Vienna; the Cambridge-educated "Magnificent Five"—Philby, Blunt, Burgess, Maclean & "the Fifth man", John Cairncross. These men performed prodigies of courage & bravery. Sorge's warnings were ignored by Stalin, clinging to his belief in Hitler's word. Maly was executed in the purges of the late Thirties with many other KGB agents—self-deluded idealists & clear-eyed cynics alike. Stalin's use of the foreign intelligence department's talents for Trotskyists; Zionism—that is, Jews—became a major enemy in the latter years of Stalin's reign. The Magnificent Five were a trusted flush by the early Fifties. Burgess & Maclean defected days before an intended MI5 interrogation in 1951. Cairncross partially confessed in the same year, resigned from the Treasury & moved to the United Nations. Blunt (publicly unmasked ~~in~~ in 1979) he made a full (secret) confession in 1964. Philby was named as a spy by Marcus Lipton MP in the Commons in 1955, flamboyantly denied the charge at a press conference, then

spent 9 yrs as a journalist for the Observer & the Economist in Beirut until he confessed to a former colleague & defected to Moscow.

Sir John Junor (Listen, for a Minute Train: Memoirs) made his reputation as the man prepared to be more bitchy about famous people than any other newspaper columnist. The one of two members of the Cabinet he'd in turn described him as they had "tried unsuccessfully to get a leg over" Margaret Thatcher. He notably recalled the well-known story of Harold Macmillan's cuckoldry by Robert Boothby but indulged himself in fascinated gossip about who then got Sarah Macmillan pregnant, driving her to alcoholism & early death. Lord Beaverbrook insisted that his current women should always wear a starched nurse's uniform at the dinner table. When old Beaverbrook dawdled, young Junor jumped.

24 All novels are historical novels, as Graham Hough used to say, but some are more historical than others. Novelists can improve on history. They never tend to invent a Prime Minister, but not a major political party, a provincial town, but not a capital city.

London Review of Books, 20 Dec. 1990

Isaiah Berlin, The Crooked Timber of Humanity: Chapters in the History of Ideas. "Out of the crooked timber of humanity no straight thing was ever made": Immanuel Kant dixit. By dint of repetition—the statement is cited once in Russian Thinkers, twice in Against the Current, three times in Four Essays on Liberty, & twice more in The Crooked Timber itself—Berlin has virtually made of it a saw. But what is the actual force of the text in the "Idea for a General History in a Cosmopolitan Perspective" from which the last sentence is taken? The message is not the imperfectibility of institutions or the contingency of history. That Kant celebrates

is the driving force of competition — the natural "antagonism" implanted in the human species by nature, as the motor of social progress. It is the dynamic of the rivalry for honours, riches & power that has generated every step of civilisation. Social advance has at length reached the point where the task for humanity can be the realization of a civil society under the rule of law, guaranteeing freedom for all. The greatest difficulty in achieving civic union within a state derives from the fact that 'man is an animal that needs a master,' to 'break his own will & oblige him to obey a generally valid will whereby each may be free' but can only find such a master among other men, who are also animals that need to be mastered in their turn. It is this problem, & the unruliness of the ruler, that occasions the comment Berlin has taken for his motto. Kant, however, is referring not to humanity as a whole, as susceptible into any symmetrical scheme, but to the pallibility of any individual as sovereign. "The highest Magistrate should be just in himself & yet be a man": It is this task, as Kant puts it, that is beyond fulfillment. The maxim's distinction immediately clear. The inhabitants of other planets may be able to perfect themselves in their individual lives: "With us it is otherwise; only the species can hope for this." The collective destiny of humanity, working through the deficiencies of its individual members, reveals "the hidden plan" of nature to bring into existence an internally & externally perfected political Constitution. The naturalism & finalism of this vision are at the antipodes of Berlin's outlook. So from Kant insisting on the irremediable crookedness of humanity in general he uses the self-same term — Krumm — to describe the kink humanity need not become in a well-ordered civic union, throw something straight

The Ozymandias complex — the wish for commemorative grandeur status

(grade) is just what can indeed be made. "Only in such an enclosure as civil confication [sic] can our inclinations achieve their best effects; as trees in a wood which seek to deprive each other of air & sunlight are forced to strive upwards & to achieve a beautiful straight growth; while those that spread their branches at will in isolated freedom grow stunted, tilted & crooked." The images of the pent & the straight tells the opposite story from its proper social basis. The famous contrast between positive & negative freedom in Four Essays on Liberty derives, of course, ultimately from Benjamin Constant's Lecture under the Restoration comparing Ancient & Modern Liberty. But when Constant sought to ground the difference in a comparative sociology of the Classical & Contemporary World, Berlin treats them as normative conceptions far from determinate social contexts. Constant's portrait is one-sided & polemical, ignoring "liberty in", rather than either "to" or "from", in Pocock's phrase

Manuel Noriega is in a Miami prison, festooned with Miami D-lawyers like any other capo. The US Government prosecutors have offered him the most amazing plea bargain in modern jurisprudence, openly saying that he can use his own (temporarily impounded) foreign bank accounts to hire counsel if he will agree not to testify about his past service for the CIA & the Drug Enforcement Agency

The magisterial Dr Lewis observed that there is "only one Brontë" — Meaning Emily — & even Mr Lewis was awed by Wuthering Heights. The only dissenting voice [illegible] Ivy Compton-Burnett's more caustic verdict was that the book had received all, indeed more than all, that was its due, & that it was

high time to stop worshipping its author. Heathcliff is the tyrant of the kitchen, as Emily was in her later years at the parsonage. Most of the action of the Heights takes place there, & Heathcliff as a kind of diabolical man-woman-cook who touches no food is more closely identified with it than with the moors. A force & complex fantasy & metamorphosis of the passions & rages of five-&-six-year-olds — violence, food, pets, kitchen: love & hate, a wish to disappear. Charlotte was tiny, so diminutive she had to wear a child's chemise & underwear — Emily "clean," tall & rangy, physically very strong, the only one of them capable of handling Branwell & Sue was Heathcliff: not a man exactly, but a concept of self outside man or woman, "a chainless soul" trapped in an unspeakable body.

London Review of Books, 7 Feb. 1991

A great impersonator, Saddam Hussein has now thrown off the moderation & marked speeches in the fashion of late & the actual vocabulary of his deadly rival, the Ayatollah Khomeini. A civilian, he is now a field-marshal; a brazen secularist, he is now to be a saint. He has developed a system that enables him to kill potential & rivals (or cause their helicopters to crash) before they can kill him. He has personally shared in the shooting of three of his close colleagues whom he has come to distrust. A shot from his pistol settled the problem of the Minister of Health who seemed to favour his stepping down from office to enable peace to be made with Khomeini. By contrast, at one point during the Suez invasion in 1956 Major Salah Salem thought that Nasser should give himself up personally to

He is old, not ~~yet~~ young old.

the British "because it is only you they want". The Egyptian leader contented himself with sending the major into retirement with his life pension as a Free Officer intact. It was as a second & later torturer on behalf of the Ba'ath Party that Sadam Hussein made his way up

Richard Payne Knight, Analytical Inquiry into the Principles of Taste (1805) includes a critique of Burke's psychologistic aesthetics, & particularly of his analysis of the experience of the sublime as a combination of astonishment & terror. If, Knight argues, Burke "had walked up St James's Street without his breeches, it would have occasioned great & universal astonishment, & if he had, at the same time, carried a loaded blunderbuss in his hands, the astonishment would have been mixed with so small portion of terror: but I do not believe that the united effects of these two powerful passions would have produced any sentiment or sensation approaching to sublime."

Aggression has been one of the constant features of the post-war world, & has never been checked by the American government (which is often carrying out the aggression). Unanimous Security Council Resolutions were passed opposing the invasions, all of which were plainly illegal under what is laughably known as international law. Who was not a man, not a gun sent to deal with the aggressors in the occupied territories of the Middle East, Cyprus or East Timor? Timor? The UN lost face because it could not enforce its Resolutions. Now it is able to walk tall & enforce them. Recalled. Roll on the war. Suddenly, "poor little Kuwait" (a greedy little dictatorship which exploits its migrant labour as horribly as anywhere else on earth) became a symbol of liberty & independence.

Thomas Mann was a capricious, near-hysterical domestic tyrant, see Nigel Hamilton's The Brothers Mann & Golo [the third of Mann's 6 children] Mann's & Reminiscences & Reflections

Stalin's close colleagues knew that he kept a black notebook in which he made regular entries. Immediately after learning that Stalin had died, Lavrenti Beria rushed to the leader's office, opened his safe & seized the black notebook & other papers. No one has seen them since.

We have the idea that we live in a world that exists independently of our ideas & thoughts. This idea may be called realism. Almost everyone shares it, & even those philosophers seemingly deny it really accept it in some form — some literary theorists, for instance, who say that we can never compare our texts to "the world" but only to other texts. As a colleague in Berkeley said to me: tell that to the Veterans of Foreign Texts.

On Dec 13/1938, the young writer Jean Stafford, visiting Boston, agreed to go for a ride in his father's Packard with her 21-yr-old suitor Robert Lowell. When he refused to marry him, Lowell went into a rage & crashed the car into an embankment. He was unhurt, but Stafford sustained massive injuries to her skull, nose & jaw that required 5 painful operations to repair. "There was about a 25 per cent reduction of the aesthetic value in her face" (Blair Clark). Although she described him as "an uncouth, neurotic, psychopathic murderer poet", she married him not long after the accident. The marriage lasted 8 years. Heavy drinking, alcoholism, possible gonorrhea: Never much respect for women ("Fem Lib"). A second marriage, to the editor Olive Jensen, quickly failed; & a brief happy third marriage to the journalist A.J. Liebling did not help her drinking or writing.

The Greeks had a saying that the iron deeds that lead forwards [i.e. weapons & armies are made to be used. And the Romans had a maxim that if you wish

*cf "La colpa è (or non) d'ogni fanciulla"; "That devil, nobody"; "One good deed has many claimants"

Peace you must prepare for war. But if you happen to want a war, prepare for it is a very good day to get it. (to the Bay of Pigs, Sr. John Kennedy said that "Success has many fathers — failure is an orphan*" Mrs Thatcher is very sensitive to the cry of "Reagan's poodle"

London Review of Books, 21 Feb. 1991

The Iraqis never seemed to grasp that the Americans already had copies of the Baghdad A to Z & spy satellites that could measure the diameter of Saddam's bald spot. Outside the British or US Embassies a hundred schoolchildren or factory employees five to ten Mornings off-work would dutifully chant "Down, down Bush" for 15 minutes & troop back to their buses. Yasser Arafat used to give press conferences in the front parlour of his residence, a room the size of a claustrophobic toilet. The parlour would turn into a heaving mass of sweating cameramen, dumpled print journalists & anxious bodyguards, & the message of the PLO would be mingled with polyglot curses & the crash of falling furniture & ornaments.

Writer's block must be thought of as a disease even more specific to a particular occupation than housemaid's knee or reaper's bottom. There are authors who stop writing because they simply don't choose to continue, feel they have no more to say, or prefer to do something else. Stephen Spender of Shakespeare & his contemporaries as "the giant race before the flood"; Donne: "We are scarce our fathers' shadows cast at noon"

Bentley is not neither fine writing nor plain writing, but just bad writing.

there is no question of his living on inherited intellectual capital.

And such men's male friendships were sexless & essential: their female ones contingent & biological. Butler's business-like dealings with the opposite sex were certainly gruesome. The lady in the Italian town "he had to put up with as the only thing that was to be got", but his normal arrangement in London was with a respectable establishment some way from where he lived in the Inner Temple. Butler's behaviour in these matters offended the susceptibilities of the chivalrous young Robert Bridges. He who quickly agitated if he thought that his beloved H. F. Jones (who incidentally shared his weekly woman) might be contemplating marriage. Forster himself highly disapproved of lesbian attachments, feeling that women did & should exist for men's benefit: a point of view not so different from Butler's own, nor even so different, either, from that of Lytton Strachey. Butler was worth more than £50,000 when he died in 1902, an enormous sum in those days.

Charles Sorley spoke of the wounded lying in no man's land, & the "horrible thankfulness" when one knew that the man was dead: "We won't have to carry him in under fire, thank God; dragging will do."

The penis is "posted" into the vaginal slot. Gavin Ewart's "one-word love poem": "You!"

London Review of Books, 21 March 1991

Ringley Amis, Memoirs. He has a reputation for not liking other people, but does anyone, could anyone, like him? Is Kingsley himself, at the end of the day, the sort of person you'd want to run into at—well, at the end of the day, at the club, or the pub, or at some crappy dinner party? On the face of it, no thank you. The faint hope might have been that, in writing directly about himself, the irascible old Shag-bored come-over as somewhat, shall

We say, candidly, Kemble's usual public image makes him seem? To any such expectations, though, Amis must be a close-to-gleeful "I told you so, you bastards will get nothing out of me, or not much, & what you do get you won't like." He will tell us nothing about his wives, mistresses or kids — a species defined by him as "those" who "have emotional claims on me." Did Philip Larkin really say of John Wain: "No advantage of birth or position or looks or talent — nothing, & look where he is now?" Larkin, although he is here said to have groomed Rich Wain "in order to ensure" to stay with him in Hull, is also said (not here) to have refurbished his house in preparation for Wain's visit. He might have restrained himself from recycling bits of vanity from the past. The Amis-de-vivre campaign in 1968 to prevent Yevtushenko's election to the Oxford Professorship of Poetry: "If successful, it would have installed a pro-Stalinist, if not a total Minion, of the Soviet regime in a highly sensitive & influential slot." The highly sensitive slot, incidentally, went that year to Roy Fuller, who, when asked, declared himself "absolutely sympathetic to Marxist ideas." And 5 yrs after that, it went to the highly sensitive John Wain, thus prompting Larkin's caveat not to downplay Kingsley's sense of his own worth. Wounded or ruffled vanity is the trigger for several of the score-settling tales he has to tell. And his literary judgments seem similarly dented with a sort of oppositional vigilance, both protecting his own turf. The writers he likes pose little or no threat either as safely senior or safely underrated by the mob. Larkin is named as his second favourite poet (Housman is top, though he may not have stayed top, we suspect, if Amis had ever sat next to him at Trinity High Table) after his "best friend"

8 ✓ TLS, March 22, 1991, p. 7

Mysteriously, though, the pair seem ready to have met: in 30 yrs, Carlyle never invited Ames up to Hull. It seems that Carlyle was a lightwad

Oh John Gross, ed., The Oxford Book of Essays. Printed literature now had a hard time delivering even parity with competing media like film, rock, multi-media happenings, what have you. But bless me, it seems I was wrong. Essays in the Spectator & the Guardian performed a socio-political function quite Crucial in their day. Addison at any rate was a very serious character. With Lamb & Hazlitt all this has gone out of the window. At their hands the essay becomes an autonomous, a self-justifying genre; it is not literature. It performs no public function. Self-justifying means self-regarding. If there were the Leavisite demolition-job that truly cleared a space, & let the air in, Lamb's reputation has been blown apart irreparably. Gross rightly identifies Lamb as the first patron saint of Edwardian essayists, the Lucases & the Lynds, & James Stephen found his 88 pages on "The Evangelical Succession" ephemeral. What shall be said for the rapier pirouettes performed for our benefit by the columnists, reviewers & media-persons of the present days.

"Encode" is a weasel word which casts a faint aura of higher nonsense over otherwise enamoured examples of lower nonsence.

The Men of 1914, Wyndham Lewis called them a "fourth rocket" invented by Pound. These women experimented not only in their writing, but also in their lives. Philip Horne, Henry James & Revision. No Novelist has made such a job of it as Henry James. He Master had each page of the novel under treatment pasted on a larger page, supplying a wide margin in which revision could take place. He

tempting blank & there was, just like, down pat: invited to fill the space he have to fill with "the very words often appear at some distance from their place on the original page; James put them in balloons & leads the eye back to their context with long wavy lines attached to the detached words — or signs between words left intact. Sometimes these revisions entirely fill a sheet or spill over to the next; sometimes, to regain a clear presentation of sequence, typed or handwritten transcriptions of revised portions of text replace the pasted-down pages." One can imagine the consternation, the exclamations of the editors & copy-editors ~~or~~ & readers as this Multitudinous work of correction started to arrive. When revision overwhelmed the original pages altogether, James had to get the novel typed out again — as he did with the new version of The American. No publisher ever has dreamed, in his worst nightmares, of an author who was so indefatigable a perfectionist. James's later style was often self-indulgent. There has often a distance of some 30 years between James the Reviser & James the First Author. James the Reviser, at new reader's look on accountable dislikes to some of the early work. He did not like Daisy Miller, for instance. In The American the new Henry James changes the clause "it was like a page torn out of a romance" to "it was a page torn out of some unspeakably unreadable book"; the simple sentence "He day seemed terribly long", which does seem to do its job, becomes: "he daylight, in its regulated gloom, the length of some interminable classic tragedy." Richardson's Clarissa ~~He~~ seems to me infinitely improved in its third edition.

Jane Carlyle was a Scottish phrase for the timid dandified Henry Flemings.

here is "Jenkin's hen", one that, to the two invaluable editorial notes Lady Clyde Ryals & Kenneth Fielding, Collected Letters of Thomas & Jane Welsh Carlyle □ explain — never knew a cock. The ingenuous insult is all the more interesting coming from a woman who may not have enjoyed full marital relations with her husband. Carlyle would complain of the noise of his neighbours daughters practising the piano, so the house had to be arranged to get his study out of the range of the nuisance. For 3 days [illegible] with his head stuck in his study, then he started up disenchanted "& the Cat pewter must be brought back"; he set off for the country (from where he wrote his usual letters home). She was the most imaginatively gifted woman of the 19th century not to write fiction or poetry.

There are many Rogers

There are many Roger Scrutons & it is not easy to reconcile them: classicist, aesthetician, champion of Senator Joseph McCarthy, teacher at Birkbeck College (an institution with a tradition of proletarian outreach), editor of the ultra-Tory Salisbury Review, journalist, and novelist. Fortnight's Anger (1981) was hard-going. His second novel, Francesca, is less overdone in its irony. But one feels a sense of frustrated expectation at the snide allusions to the New Statesman, the Guardian & "Dr Leavis" on page 1. This is the Roger Scruton we know & love to hate — Britain's favourite "token reactionary", as he sometimes calls himself.

London Review of Books, 4 April 1991

Was Lloyd George dead in 1909, the House of Lords was "Mr Balfour's Poodle";

the American Congress today is Israel's spiritual. "Israel was, among Arab states, relatively liberal & tolerant"? Tell it to the Yemenis & Palestinians who lived & worked there, produced the surplus on which the upper classes feasted. There is an old political axiom, as sound in politics as in gastronomy, that a soufflé can never be made to rise thrice.

Botsky: the stiff-necked atheist & the unapologetic Jew; the author of Literature & Revolution & co-signatory, with André Breton, of the Surrealist Manifesto; the defender & embattled Einsteinians & Freudians; the founder of the Red Army & the pitiless opponent of Great Russian chauvinism; Trotsky, on the run from Stalin, is in Norway in 1936. The Social-Democratic government, fearful before Moscow's allegation that he is a Hitler agent, asks him to be silent. He replies: "You think yourself secure. But the day is near—remember this—the day is near when the Nazis will drive you from your country, all of you." Trotsky's prescient words in Norway had been heard by Trygve Lie, later first Secretary-General of the UN. He was the first & the only world-class figure to warn against both Fascism & Stalinism. All the strands of the "New York Intellectuals" are in some sense Trotskyist or post Trotskyist. From the contentious world of the Partisan Review (the CR crowd) several streams have originated. The dissident Left—as opposed to the pro-Communist Left—Dwight Macdonald, Philip Rahv et al; the Cold War hard-liners—Melvin Lasky, Irving Kristol, James Burnham, Sidney Hook et al; the "End of Ideology" liberal professoriat—Daniel Bell, Nathan Glazer, et al. Most endearing in their contribution, if only because they partook of all things & of none, the cultural & literary Modernists—Clement Greenberg, Delmore Schwartz, Harold Rosenberg & Malcolm Cowley.

As late as 1936 Lionel Trilling was told explicitly by Columbia University that "as a Freudian, a Marxist & a Jew" he could not expect to be allowed to impart the traditions of English Literature. His response was to metamorphose into a gentleman-liberal. His novel *The Middle of the Journey* is patterned on the classic Communist-into-ex-Communist evolution, reflecting slightly the stage of Trotskyist anguish. The intellectual in politics is always faced by the problem of elitism. Irving Howe asks himself why the Partisan group hesitated to attack T. S Eliot. Yet the journal was celebrated for its panache & individualism & its contempt for Trilling's "public opinion" & Bonnie "ordinary man". Clement Greenberg's 1939 essay in *Partisan Review*, entitled "Avant-Garde & Kitsch" was a trumpet-blast against massified, homogenised culture. James Burnham retained elements of his Bolshevik identity when he lent his talents to the service of power. In his third book *The Machiavellians* he argued that power is always held by elites & that democracy is a sham. This ideology of manipulation, & its world-historical setting, outfitted him admirably to become a CIA consultant & Cold War profiteer: he helped to evolve the Congress for Cultural Freedom. Norman Podhoretz (commentary) celebrates the "neo-conservative" group which had a warm relationship with Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick. The condensed incubations of Max Schachtman & Burnham are lampooned by Orwell in "The Theory & Organisation of Collectivism" — "the Book within the Book in *1984*".

Six Muslim scholars met Rushdie on Christmas Eve 1990 to ratify his volitional conversion: he affirmed the "oneness of God & the genuineness of the prophecy & the Perfect Manuscript" "Mr Tortuise's" Britain

Saint-Just: "Il [Rousseau] étouffe la liberté de ses propres mains et plus il établit de ressorts contre l'esclavage, plus il forge d'armes à la tyrannie." "Les grands hommes ne meurent point dans leur lit... Les circonstances ne sont difficiles que pour ceux qui reculent devant le tombeau."

T.L.S. March 1, 1991

3 Skeletons in the cupboard. Stalin's decades of apparatus-wide terror: Hair, in the end, it ensnared him — perhaps even literally. By the end of February 1953, having slaughtered his way through the century's greatest number of people, he had grown paranoid — he had driven away the few remaining people who dared tell him the truth. Rather than respond to warnings that a crisis was brewing, Stalin's doctors had told him to take things easier. They were certain Lavrenti Beria & other members of the Politburo were summoned to Stalin's quarters on February 28. The dictator seemed to be on the verge of launching another bout of purging the Revolution's children; before he stomped off to bed, at 4 a.m., he threatened them: some people might suppose that they could get by on past merits but they are mistaken. Next morning he was in electric silence from his quarters. The household staff were forbidden to enter them, for security reasons. They did so, the doctors to bring the bad news only three days later — & then discovered Stalin, fatally, crapped & pissed out on the floor of his dining room. He had a stroke, could not speak, & could only utter a trembling hand Beria then sent for — it took time because he was encased with 2 mistresses & bottles, & could not be easily prised. His relatives took for his despise to fetch a doctor, & then

Click after click at new bates. Down to 299 pages.

to see if Stalin's office in the Kremlin to extract papers from the safe—to which he alone had access. Doctors were finally summoned at 6 am the next day. Frantic, they applied leeches; breathless, Stalin's daughter Vasily came in and out, shouting drunkenly that they had murdered his father; plotters the Politburo sat around, slumped; & the end came, at 10 pm on March 5. Was Stalin murdered by Beria, or at any rate just left to die? Beria himself was exiled the following July. "De-Stalinization" then began. It has been going on, by fits & starts, to this day. The history of the Revolution used to condition our bodies & bodies. Stalin read widely, wrote his own speeches; his underlinings in books are interesting enough. The Kaiser Wilhelm even, who read but seldom and underlined terribly, impotently, like Stalin, with fingers and toes clenching their pencils as they contemplated the size of the honey the critics were giving Communism, has elicited tidal-wave proportions. E. M. can't go so far as to say that "Stalin once more blocked democracy in the form of Allied airlines", though after last night Perry Anderson, along with the Khrushchev speech, that's how it will in the end seem worth it. Attitudes to Marx, from comfortable Victorian positions in the West, seem a distraction & called it peace. What the devices & theories, illiberal readers, the postage-stamp aesthete, probably needed most of all about David Cecil was his title. The Latin Gathered here would have made him distinctly uneasy. Cecil responded to a Berlin night club habitué's exhibition. Told to "find the Normal Heterosexual" by day, "Fancy you should ask. As a matter of fact I do have a girl

temperature when I left out
Diderot has been called the Voltaire amabilis; but of mi-
thologies there is always been as likeable as their science.
10 Vol. 1762 Rousseau had repudiated the philosophes & his former asso-
ciates, Diderot, d'Alembert & Grimm, & had published the Discourse
on Inequality, the Letter to d'Alembert, the Nouvelle Héloïse, Emile &
the Social Contract. The vol ends with his flight from France, already
the victim of the paranoia that was to dominate the later years of
his life. Fools have the awkward habit of not speaking unless they are
spoken to. Apart from the rare occasions when he chose to acknowledge
his own fame, Rousseau cannot believe himself to be in the wrong.
If he is the central assumption of the Social Contract that the legislator
(with whom he presumably identified himself) was right & that those
disposed with him realized that he was right, so that once obliging them
to accept what they knew they ought to have wanted was worthy of saving
them to be free. This same passion for controlling men's wills, as well as
their actions, runs right through Emile: the boy Emile has the illusion
of making free choices in situations that are actually contrived by the
tutor, i.e. Rousseau himself. In the Nouvelle Héloïse, if not enough
for Julie to make Saint-Preux accept his status as disgraced lover,
he has to be made to agree that this is what he really wants. Rousseau's
self-righteousness, self-importance, & self-pity, like himself advised
that Julie should be relieved to her growing love for humanity was accompanied

He loathed publicity, politicians & the press in ascending order of loathing & embalmed what the silent service stood for.

by an increasing dislike by the people with whom he came into contact. When anyone offered to do anything for him, his first reaction was to denounce this attempt to patronize him & remind him of his poverty. Only when an apology had been offered — & the burden of obligation transferred to the other side — was he ever seen prepared to forgive, & to accept the favour. His posture as the ascetic hermit was sometimes a pose after time when he had 3 residences at his disposal, his own & 2 that belonged to the duc de Luxembourg. M^lle d'Epinay, who knew him better than most people, described him as a "moral dwarf on stilts."

At one moment in Beckett's Rough for Theatre, II a character observes a window & remarks "And to think all that is nuclear combustion! All that folderol!" Tony Benn raised the matter in the House, complaining against the TV & commentators who chanced to say that Baghdad looked on the first night it was bombed like a fireworks display on the Fourth of July. He criticized the remark as typifying the allies' callousness. It is a good evidence of a politician attending to words when most others have turned into Speak-Your-Weight machines, gravely clanking out "Complete & Unconditional Withdrawal" at the faintest pressure from Jeremy Paxman. Media-persons worry that the Gulf crisis has aestheticized war, they look guilty & mutter "video-game". The media-persons need not worry. Consider Tolstoy describing the scene of Battle of Borodino [War & Peace]: "... these puffs of smoke & the reports that accompanied them were, strange to say, what gave the chief beauty to the spectacle.

they have been included on the strength of publication in anthologies, not solo volumes.

Sentimentalism thinks that the only adjective which can qualify "reality" is "harsh." Keats: "Though a quarrel in the streets is a thing to be hated, the energies displayed in it are fine; the commonest man shows a grace in his quarrel..." The camera sees a guard in the sands, or in the alleys over Baghdad. Poets like Tennyson with his "blood-red blossom of war," politicians like Churchill who invented the phrase "theatre of war": President Hussein wields missiles, threatens chemical war, but he speaks of the sword & the spear; this is put down as real. But war is a creature of the imagination.

A version is always valuable, & I've have the nerve to attempt it once. Who does is George Watson (British Literature since 1945). "That is no small pride, if I've worked at saying that I have bitten off more than I should ever wish to swallow or even chew." Judging by the Anthologie de la littérature anglaise; ed. François Laroque, Alain Morvan & André Topia, the contemporary British authors [illegible] il faut in France remain a small & sadly familiar creed: the stolid four fans of great literature & the British Council.

JFK's addiction to the thrillers of Ian Fleming & Ronald Reagan's to those of Tom Clancy; Hitler's devouring of the Wild West romances of Karl May; Sabré & Russell's fondness for pulp detective stories. Umberto Eco, On Literature, On Junk Fiction (novels which never achieve the dignity of hardcover form)

23: "If I've a son to die," said St. Thomas Aquinas, following an intonation line laid down by St Augustine. But Aquinas, with a scholastic subtlety

* No. Augustine formulates this very principle in *De Mendacio* 10.17: "Licet igitur dissertori ac disputatori atque praedicatori rerum aeternarum, vel narratori alicui pronuntiatori rerum temporalium ad aedificandam religionem atque pietatem pertinentium occultare in tempore quidquid occultandum putetur: mentiri autem nunquam licet!"

not to be found in the Bishop of Hippo, held that while lie is always wrong it is permissible in certain circumstances to economize with the truth. "It is one thing to be silent about the truth and another to tell a falsehood" "It was even lawful to conceal the truth, prudentially, by the use of dissimulation — *veritatem occultare prudenter sub aliqua dissimulatione* — a doctrine which Augustine attributed, startlingly a point to Augustine himself.* The acceptance of dissimulation became an advanced art form for the half-converted Jews called Marranos ("pigs") of late mediaeval Spain, & for a variety of dissident minorities: Protestants in the many lands where Catholicism remained politically dominant, Catholics in Elizabethan England. All learned to economize with the truth to the extent of equivocating, believing one thing while professing another. Andrew Boorde, the Elizabethan Master of Peterhouse & a legend for dissimulation, is reported (John Foxe in *The Book of Martyrs*) to have said to a lady in Norfolk that the Queen's religion was a good religion to live in but not to die in. That was to eat your cake & have it; to save your life both here & hereafter.

TLS, March 22, 1991

The French mathematical physicist Joseph Fourier went to Egypt with Napoleon, & held various administrative & diplomatic positions there. During this period, he contracted an unidentified illness — possibly myxedema — which made him highly sensitive to the cold. He finally returned to Paris in 1816, & once there he increasingly stayed inside his well-heated apartment. In 1817, he happened to consider how the gases in the

[London Review of Books, March 22, 1984]

atmosphere, by absorbing radiation, keep the earth warmer than it would otherwise be. He had discovered the "greenhouse effect." The average temperature of the globe is about 14° (57°F), & it would be −19°C (−30°) if the atmosphere contained no greenhouse gases. Either way, the atmospheric greenhouse effect is essentially benign. At a temperature of −19°C, water freezes & there would be no life on Earth. Without the greenhouse effect, we should never have been born. The atmosphere acts like the glass of a hothouse. The radiation that enters the atmosphere from the sun has a higher energy & a shorter average wavelength, than the radiation bounced back by the Earth. The absorbed radiation heats the atmosphere up. The same "greenhouse effect" operates in a motor car parked in the sun. The sunlight penetrates the car window screen; but less the infra-red radiation re-emitted from [illegible] is able to escape: it is absorbed by the glass, partly redialled back into the interior, & heats the vehicle. Each square meter of the Earth's surface enjoys about 148 watts of greenhouse heating, & 100 of them are caused by water vapour.

Philip Horne, Henry James & Revision (Oxford, Clarendon Press). In 1904-5 Henry James & his agent Pinker planned a revised — or as James preferred to put it, "revived" — edition of his works, to be known as the "New York Edition". Pinker supplied James with pasted copies of the old copies, with broad margins; & James began a task of revision which would take him 3 yrs of obsessed & delighted labour. It was financially speaking, an utter disaster. The joint news in his first chapter by

statement, received late in 1908, inspired him to an excellent joke: "Look on my Works ye Mighty, & despair!" The Prefaces were going to enjoy a happier fate than the "New York" texts. R. P. Blackmur published an edition of them in 1934. This was the case for Leavis to intervene; in some *Scrutiny* essays he argued strongly for the middle, as against late, James & wrote scornfully of late-James idolatry. The Prefaces, according to him, were "not merely difficult but unrewarding reading. The James of the Prefaces is so much NOT the James of the early books that he certainly should not be taken as a critical authority upon them." He made out a powerful case, but, alas, he committed a gaffe. He quoted a long passage from *Roderick Hudson* as evidence of "the finely remarkable achieved manner of this early novel", a manner strongly revealing the influence of Dickens "but offering a much more formidable intellectual edge"; & the only thing wrong with this, he wrote, was that unanonymous contributor in the *TLS* in 1949, because he had taken his quotation from the revised "New York" version of 1907, & not from "the original writing" in the "first book edition in 1876)." Leavis's error became proverbial, & Fredson Bowers cited it sarcastically in a well-known essay on "Textual Criticism & the Literary Critic". It is a cautionary tale. For if Leavis erred, the *TLS* writer & Fredson Bowers erred just as badly. In the text of *Roderick Hudson* "Minutely revised" (James's words) for the first English edition of 1879, the passage in question already is magnificently Dickensian. How critically speaking, Leavis's instinct was right, & the bibliographers, for all

their moralizing, had not done their work. In Rome, James the reviser has at last found his ideal interpreter. James loved to block his books from his memory once he had written them — claiming, indeed half-deviously, to dislike them: "I so detest, as it were, my books after they are done & I've got rid of them." What he prized was the actual process of writing. "Nothing is my last word about anything." He mused a whole set of notions about the value of "finish": When he had finished something, he would then, under the influence of further inspired last thoughts, decide he must "super-finish" it. He was haunted by what one of his characters call "that terrible little tale of Balzac's", Le Chef d'Oeuvre inconnu, which deals with a painter who finishes & refinishes his masterpiece until it becomes a mere jumble of dead paint. He prompted himself to make a counterblast to it, "The Madonna of the Future", which deals with the incapacity, not to end, but to begin. "I wanted & wanted to be worthier to begin," says the protagonist Theobald — "I wasted my life in preparation." Eleven years before the "New York" enterprise, James wrote the story "The Middle Years". Its hero, the dying novelist Dencombe, is a "passionate Corrector", so stern in all things as a form final to himself. "He" that he would really have asked heaven to publish his first edition three months ago with the pocket for a "revised" further delusion. Only Now that his career is over, he reflects mournfully, is he really ready to begin; & in a semi-fusion of his illness he stops reading with the idea of a second chance. "A second chance — that's the delusion. There never was to be but one..." Todorov on reading as "a passive sort of writing". Having

the ambiguity in Lord Halifax's character caused him to be widely known as "The Holy Fox".

James had the utmost trouble in reading. "The novel I can only read, I can't read at all!" he exclaimed to Mrs Humphry Ward, who had compl. lained of his blue pencilings; & later to H. G. Wells: "To read a novel at all I perform a feat, to my sense, the act of sorting it, that is of re-handling the subject according to my own lights."

Gone with the Wind remains the fastest-selling novel in the history of American publishing. It sold more than a million & a half copies in the year of publication, 1936, & has since shifted 28 million worldwide, having been translated into 27 languages. It was the last as well first novel of its author, Margaret Mitchell, who died in 1949. In September Macmillan are to publish Scarlett: the Sequel to "Gone with the Wind" by one Alexandra Ripley, 700 pages of fallow ape written "with the full approval of Margaret Mitchell's estate." This is the latest develop. ment in a growing trend by publishers to treat an author as a brand, rather than as a person. The ghosting of books for living authors happens all the time & is not confined to sports stars. Last year it was revealed that the Nobel prize winner Eugenio Montale had not written all the reviews that was published under his name. In Britain a series of new Alistair Maclean thrillers have appeared since his death, purportedly developed from notes he left, & presented by Collins under the format of "Alistair Maclean's Red Alert by Alastair Mackill" & the like. Virginia Andrews, an American shock-writer who died 5 yrs ago, continues to be a best-seller, with the help of ghosts

22 the "Controller" Information in Whitehall" & the "news manager"
who circulates propaganda to force public opinion

~~this shark practice on~~

It is tempting to blame Modernist criticism with its pronouncement on "the Death of the Author" (Barthes): "For the writer to be the writer, it must continue to 'act' & to be legible even if what is called the author of the work no longer answers for what he has written, for what he seems to have signed, whether he is provisionally absent, or if he is dead." (Derrida)
The American novel would be called "The Pride & The Prejudice". The redundant articles epitomize what Wilde said about our two countries being separated by a common language. Of Mice The High & the Mighty, The Bad & the Beautiful, etc. Faulkner could not resist naming his first novel, not Sound & Fury, as the Shakespearean reference prompted him to do, but The Sound & the Fury.
One of the most notorious femmes fatales in the theatrical repertoire is Lulu, the protagonist of Frank Wedekind's "Monster Tragedy" of 1892, Pandora's Box; the play has become an almost talismanic piece of fin-de-siècle erotica, celebrated for its diagnosis of modern love, its frank exploration of female sexuality as a force of nature, & its scorn of male hypocrisy. It was rejected & rewritten, then censored & finally divided into two plays, The Earth Spirit, A Tragedy, which was performed, & the last two acts, Pandora's Box, which were confined to private performance until 1918.
Cesare Pavese's epigram: "Sono un popolo nemico le donne, come il popolo tedesco." Alberto Moravia, perhaps piqued by a jibe that he, Elsa Morante & other Roman writers in Italy are too much produced officially,

+ She already wrote AIDS & Its Metaphors.

Fascist literature during the 1930s dismissed Proust as a petty-bourgeois decadent whose suicide was his final act of self-mythologization. Susan Sontag*, The Way We Live Now is a brilliant & chilling account of AIDS, as told through the reactions of a couple & dozen friends — one for every letter of the alphabet.

TLS, March 29, 1991

His masterpiece, the late work On Human Conduct

3 Mrs Thatcher has never ever heard of Michael Oakeshott until quite a late stage in her career. I [John Casey] planned to meet her shortly after she became the leader of the Tory Party, & urged that Oakeshott, the most distinguished living philosopher of the Tory persuasion, ought to be given an honour by the next Conservative government. Mrs Thatcher looked blank, but then said: "Yes, he was so helpful to the Party between 1964 & 1970." Knowing that Oakeshott had never been helpful to any party in the sense in which politicians understand "helpful" — ie doing propaganda — I held my peace. Curiously, another academic named Oakeshott was awarded a Knighthood in Mrs Thatcher's very first honours list. Outside of the happy band of his disciples Oakeshott was never influential. His work has not become part of the common currency of debate in the academy — unlike the writings of (for instance) John Rawls, Robert Nozick or Ronald Dworkin. Paul Franco's The Political Philosophy of Michael Oakeshott (1990) brought out the new & new of his thought, & can't stop the notion that there is not much more to Oakeshott than veleities & surfaces. Philosophers commonly distinguish between "knowing

Oakt "& "Knowing how". "Pure practical knowledge—knowing how—can be formulated in rules & maxims, & learned from textbooks & Manuals. Most all practical knowledge, though, can be summed up in technical rules. Aristotle's theory of phronesis—practical wisdom—is the chief source of Oakeshott's political theory. "Rationalism in politics". The rationalist does not see politics as an application of phronesis, rather has a predisposition in favour of technical knowledge, & accordingly turns politics into an example of W. E. J. Lenin: "The Soviets plus electricity equals Communism" Oakeshott cited many evils & absurdities of the door of rationalism in politics, from universal human rights to the ecumenical movement. the Beveridge Report, feminist suffrage agitation & the revival of Gaelic as the official language of Ireland. He distinguishes between the state understood as a civil association & the state as an "enterprise association" or "the managerial state." Conversation is for Oakeshott's favourite image of a human activity which has no end beyond itself. The "conversation of Mankind" is a favoured Oakeshottian symbol of human life. Conversation distinguishes the civilized man from the barbarian. Man acquired his at present appearance through descent from a race of apes who sat so long & so late in talk that they wore out their tales tails. He once scolded me for having shown "an inexplicable deference to that charlatan, Marx." He was an unworldly man. He never accepted public honours. He was not the sort of man who would be asked to sit on committees of the great & the good.

Wm Blake, Milton: "For in this period the Poets work is done & all the Great Events of Time start forth & are conceived in such a Period/ Within a Moment: a Pulsation of the Artery!" Enriched in the Skeptical & untidy existence of an almost successful minor artist, living precariously between underwriting hackwork, hopeful but unrealistic commercial adventures ventures & private patronage that generally promised more than it delivered, Blake was also the most important Christian visionary of the past two centuries, a major poet & the 19th century's most original graphic designer. G. E. Bentley's Blake Records & its 1988 Supplement. His erotic (& sometimes pornographic) imagination & his strong paranoid streak. His magnificent mythic Creation Urizen, a figure who combines King, God & Father in an [illegible] archetype of self-punishing tyranny. Ingenuous biographical explanations for Blake's mythic poems is an old game, one at which Blake's early critics excelled.

Katharine M. Rogers, Frances Burney: The World of "Female Difficulties". In these pretentious books, Margaret Anne Doody & Julia Epstein have chosen to emphasize Burney's occasional outbursts of anger at the restrictions 18th-cent. British society imposed on women. Rogers sees her as a much more conventional & compliant figure, "avoiding" indelicacy & avoiding "criticism" although constantly illuminated by a vibrant private sensibility. Rogers explores the internal politics of the Burney family, & rattles a few skeletons. The Burneys were prominent members of the self-made bourgeoisie eventually,

* "Mme de Staël montrait volontiers ses bras, sa gorge, en un mot ce qu'elle avait de mieux, et elle disait: 'Chacun montre son visage où il l'a'" — Sainte-Beuve, Mes Poisons, 82

very well-connected. Her dominant father, the eminent musicologist Dr Charles Burney, introduced into her life a pervasive pressure towards self-denial. At his behest, she took a wholly unsuitable job as a lady-in-waiting to the unappealing Queen Charlotte which lasted for 5 stifling years. Even later, friendship with dynamic women like Mme de Staël were ended because of Dr Burney's disapproval of their morals. And Fanny's eventual unhappy Marriage to the penniless French émigré, Alexandre d'Arblay led to a disturbing (albeit temporary) estrangement from her father. The conflicts between impulse & principle run through Cecilia & Camilla! The Wanderer (1814) is Burney's most ambitious exploration of the "Female Difficulties" of her title. She tackles on the ideology of female submissiveness most aggressively: "How mighty, then, those circumstances, are the DIFFICULTIES with which a FEMALE has to struggle!..."

The brilliant group of exiles from the revolutionary Terror at Juniper Hall in the late Summer of 1792: Mme de Staël & her lover Comte Louis de Narbonne Lara, whose child he she had recently borne in the dissolution of her parents' house at Coppet; Talleyrand, one of her former lovers; Alexandre d'Arblay, previously aide-de-camp to Lafayette. The cozy English circle at the local great house, Norbury Park: Mr & Mrs Lock & their intimate friends from the nearby cottage, Fanny Burney's sister Susanna & her husband, Captain Phillips, & Fanny herself. Mme de Staël, set out to captivate Fanny from the start; she laid it on with a trowel, addressing her as "la pauvre petite femme de l'Angleterre". Fanny,

(v. Girard, p 75)

naively unaware of the sexual undercurrents at Juniper Hall, was indeed captivated, as Mlle Staël boasted in a letter to Gibbon. Later, indeed, shocked by the scandal about her next friend retailed to her from London & fearful of contamination to her own reputation, Fanny divorced de Staël, but carried on a secret romance with d'Arblay.

American
Benda Madox, The Pope & Contraception: The Diabolical Doctrine. She considers Roman Catholic teaching on birth-control, with some help from Roget's Thesaurus, to be "perverse, diabolical, fiendish, wicked, atrociously cruel". She finds it "obscene" that it should be defended by "aged celibate men who have not been to bed with a woman since they were weaned." Her explosions are certainly fortissimo, but her blasts are mostly of non-lethal hot air. No boffelivas crays enough to say "the more the merrier."

Lenin's cult lives on today, tended by Gorbachev. Under Brezhnev it was forbidden for second-hand bookshops to sell Lenin's collected works. Even now, the volume of letters to Inessa Armand, who was almost certainly his lover, is held in a sealed safe in the Institute of Marxism-Leninism. Letters between Lenin & secret police chief Dzierzynski have been similarly withheld. Visiting a book fair because you like literature is about as appropriate as visiting an abbatoir because you like animals.

The final essay in Salman Rushdie's Imaginary Homelands is "Why I Have Embraced Islam".

TLS, April 5, 1991

* his lecture notes from the Hegel seminar brought out by Raymond Queneau in 1947, Introduction à la lecture de Hegel

Dominique Auffret, Alexandre Kojève: La Philosophie, l'état, la fin de l'histoire. There's a celebrated passage in Turgenev's Smoke where Potugin, a cosmopolitan critic of the Slavophiles, recounts his visits to the Crystal Palace. He is ashamed at not finding a single Russian invention displayed there, though not surprised! The Russian intellect rules apply themselves to universal systems of political economy and don't stoop to the practical tasks of washing-machine engineering. "What's beyond them," Potugin fumes. "Pick up some old cast-off shoe, dropped ages ago by Saint-Simon or Fourier, & stretch it on two head & treat it as a sacred relic—that's what we're capable of." Four 4 decades of this century one of the most influential philosophers & statesmen in France was the High-born Russian Alexandre Vladimirovitch Kojevnikov. The French claim for Kojève's philosophical depth & his historical importance seemed to hinge on one set of lectures given to a handful of listeners during the 1930s. These lectures have been translated into English as An Introduction to the Reading of Hegel* & they have been more maligned than consulted.

He was born into a wealthy & well-connected Moscow family in 1902 & spent his first years in the cocoon of luxury. The October Revolution extinguished the Kojevnikovs' world. Young Alexandre was himself arrested by the ubiquitous Cheka for selling black-market soap, & narrowly escaped execution. He left Russia a convinced communist, if one out of step with the Bolshevik practice. After a short spell in a Polish prison as a suspected spy, he eventually reached Germany, where he sold smuggled jewellery to support himself in Berlin. In 1926 he finally settled in

Paris at the invitation of Alexandre Koyré, the distinguished historian of philosophy & science who had emigrated from Russia before the Revolution & now taught at the École Pratique des Hautes Études. They had met a few years earlier in Heidelberg, under the oddest circumstances. Kojève, a shameless seducer, had caused a scandal by carrying off Koyré's sister-in-law (whom he quickly married, then divorced) & the family had deputized Koyré to bring the young lady back. Koyré was so deeply impressed by Kojève that he sheepishly told his wife: "The girl is right: he is much better than my brother!" Koyré helped him in various ways. Kojève's own fortune, invested in the shares of the cheesemaker "La Vache Qui Rit" was wiped out in the crash of 1929. Le mystère Kojève: the double life of a reclusive philosopher & high-ranking bureaucrat, artistic & official. Reading the Phenomenology of Spirit once again, Kojève realized that the "master-slave" dialectic was the centre of the book: the historical struggle for recognition between classes, a struggle that effectively came to an end with Napoleon's conquest & the birth of a modern, homogeneous universal state. In a sense, history had come to a close when Hegel looked down from his window at Jena & saw Napoleon on horseback. "The Chinese revolution is nothing but the introduction of the Napoleonic Code into China". A small group of initiates sat at Kojève's feet while he took them line by line through the still untranslated Phenomenology & explained the end of history. His audience included Raymond Aron, Eric Weil, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, André Breton, Georges Bataille, Raymond Queneau & Jacques Lacan. Sartre, who once had learned German from Kojève, never attended.

Roger Caillois later remarked Kojève's "absolutely extraordinary gift for a whole generation." For Barthes, each encounter with Kojève left him "broken, crushed, killed ten times over: suffocated & united down." In his Mémoires Aron ranked Kojève among the three truly superior minds he ever encountered—this despite the latter's claim to have been "un stalinien de stricte observance" ("la conscience de Staline"). And Michel Foucault later wrote that the first order of business for his own (Heideggerian) generation was to get the dead weight of (Kojève's) Hegel from their shoulders. After the Liberation Kojève was asked by two of his less philosophical students to join the government as a counsellor in the foreign economic relations bureau of the finance ministry. Kojève took the job & remained a trusted government adviser until his death in 1968. The peculiar place of Europe was to find itself wedged between two distasteful prototypes of the universal homogeneous state, the Soviet Union & the United States. Kojève's strategy was to create a third force by unifying Europe into what he called the new "Latin Empire," within which France would be primus inter pares. In his Heidelberg years he completed a thesis under Karl Jaspers on the Russian mystical thinker Vladimir Solovyov. What Kojève brought to Hegel was an experience with Eastern & Christian mysticism, & his study of Solovyov. Leo Strauss & Kojève had met in Berlin in the 1920s. Kojève advised Strauss à la vie mondaine. Strauss preferred the manners of England & ranked Jane Austen higher than Dostoevsky. He objected to Kojève's friendship with Eric Weil, whose book on Hegel he called a "Baedeker to any future Charybdis."

In *The Tyranny of Socrates* Strauss maintained that the first lesson of the Platonic dialogue was that wisdom could not be taught publicly. Philosophy is dangerous, its subjective certainty should, at most, be shared with a "select". It can disclose a timeless, natural standard by which political arrangements might be judged, but that standard cannot be taken as a blueprint for building the ideal city. Modern thought has established an unbridled commerce between philosophy & the public in the name of enlightenment. The result is the rise of modern tyranny (Stalin) & its philosophical justification (Kojève). Accordingly to Kojève, all capitalist & communist roads lead to this end: "Marx est Dieu, Ford est son prophète." *Human Action* (1949)

Ludwig von Mises, the retired Austrian economist, 30 ~~years before~~ in 1920, fully explained the inevitability of the eventual collapse of socialist economies. The invisible hand of the market is a more reliable organiser of the economic life of nations than the visible hand of the state.

Margaret Lenta, *Ngaio Marsh: A Life*. In 1949, when Ngaio Marsh was well established as one of the 4 "Queens of Crime" (the others being Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers & Margery Allingham), Penguin & Collins reissued 10 of her novels, 100,000 copies each, a million Marshes in one go. The author, officially aged 50 but in fact 55, & just arrived from New Zealand, appeared expensively & stylishly dressed at cocktail parties, receptions & interviews. She had first travelled to England at the age of 33. In England she said she "came alive". She lived & worked in New Zealand while keeping herself professionally present in London. She had many

M. C. Rintoul, Dictionary of Real People & Places in Fiction
Routledge, 1991, 896 pp.

Wm Amos, The Originals: Who's Really Who in Fiction (1985)

talents: a painter & a brilliant producer, especially of Shakespeare. Tall, well-dressed, good-looking, with a deep voice & an English accent. She died in at 87. For most of her life an isolated, rather lonely woman. An only child, she was emotionally dominated by her mother, & in her fifties still looking after her ailing & possessive father. She cast herself in a useful half-mother, half-lover role with a succession of younger men who were her theatrical protégés; at at the age of 48 fell deeply but platonically in love with an émigré Estonian, married & possibly homosexual.

TLS, April 19, 1991

5

The first anti-Semitic conspiracy theory was coined at least as far back as the third century BC, when it was produced by the Egyptian priest-historian Manetho, in a passage which survives in Greek histories. This ugly morsel proved appetizing to ant anti-Semites through the ages, & was much relished, for instance, by Marx, who repeated it in a notorious letter to Engels, denouncing their Jewish rival Lasalle. The Greeks acquired anti-Semitism from the Egyptians, as they got so much else, but they gave it an added dimension. In turn, the Greeks passed the virus to the Romans: Seneca, Juvenal & Tacitus. It is possible to argue that if Christianity had never existed, anti-Semitism might have become more virulent. The famous Chief Rabbi of Vienna, Moritz Güdemann (1907) explained Christian anti-Semitism as follows: "Obliged to revere a Jew as God, they wreak vengeance upon the rest of the Jews by treating them as devils". A powerful philo-Semitic movement in 19th Britain culminated in George Eliot's novel Daniel

An encyclopedia should not be a bran tub
He has been beaten to publication by two rival polymaths

Deronda (1876) written under the influence of the Zionist scholar Emmanuel Deutsch. The novel voiced the hopes of a Zionist restoration in Palestine. Openly presented for the first time the idea of a Jewish national home in the East. The book was widely read in political circles.

It was news to me that Harry Truman joined the Klan in 1922 when he first ran for office: resigning as soon as the election was over, naturally on the grounds of the highest principles.

When this crypto-monarch is forced by republican imperatives to make way for a successor, the American people make sure that he is sadly deked out by watching his successor eat his heart but by engaging character assassins to pierce it — in many places in public. That Kitty Kelley's Nancy Reagan: The Unauthorized Biography is already proving a money-maker for Simon and Schuster (in spite of an advance reported to be around $3.5 million) may seemingly pain, since the same publishers lost big on Ronald Reagan's own memoirs. Miss Kelley, her modest emolument of 3½ million bucks safely tucked into her reticule, says that "the 80s will go down in the history as the Reagan era, an era of greed & avarice with no moral compass." She contends that it was really Nancy, rather than Ron, who was calling the shots during their 8 yrs in the White House. It was time to kill the Old King. Reagan can take some comfort in the fact that American kings undergo regular resurrections & re-burials. At the moment, Jimmy Carter's stature is once again high & even Richard Nixon has undergone some sanctified rehabilitation.

He longed to be loved & ended only in loving himself.

Literary theorists, with their urge to computate works of art from their human origins & ram that raw into grids of signification, deplore suggestions that literature comes from a life. The fear of biography arose with the publication of Mrs Gaskell's Life of Charlotte Brontë & Froude's Reminiscences of Carlyle. After that, literary eminence was perceived as having its post-mortem down-side. Tennyson feared he would be "kippered like a pig." From The Aspern Papers to The Paper Men, authors envisaged biographers as pillagers & exposers. Barriers & shredders started their work. Techniques of deception got even sharper. Pinkered lines in Dickens's letters gifted their secrets to infra-red rays. Deeply carefully erased notes in Hopkins's journals have been made to surrender information. Several biographers see themselves as partly private eyes. The question of invasion of privacy. Here can be something similar — "the shock in portrait of the dead" — in investigating the recently deceased Johnson: "Criticism is a study by which men grow important & formidable at very small expence." How much more easily may vanity be supported by becoming a critic of critics. Forty years ago Randall Jarrell lamented that we are in "Age of Criticism": "... the act of criticism ... has became the representative or archetypal act of the intellectual". Gorky reports Chekhov as having complained: "Critics are like horse-flies which prevent the horse from ploughing."

Harriet Martineau published Illustrations of Political Economy, probably the most unpromising title English fiction has ever borne. The tales sold phenomenally, prompting Broughams's exasperated comment that a deaf

Beverley Nicholls was as an author dear picked up only to be put down, the pick-up lasting until some time in the 1930s, the putting-down continuing thereafter. * from a ~~book~~ children's book written by Nicholls

girl in Norwich was doing more good than any man in the country. Her addiction to mesmerism did her reputation great harm. The Brontës are "that awful family". "I always ... distrust such an amount of sentimentality, combined with selflove in the husband, as has always existed in the D[ickens] household ... he openly & thoroughly regarded his wife as his woman". She called "Lite" George Eliot whom she resolutely called "Miss Evans", & cattily prophesied that she would quickly find another mate after Lewes's death.

Christina Rossetti's nephew Ford Madox Ford found on the back of one of her more head-broken lyrics a calculation of her Consol shares. By the age of 30, Beverley Nichols was able to boast to Cecil Beaton of having enjoyed sex with some of the most notable men of the day, among them Oliver Hopel, Somerset Maugham & Noel Coward. He shocked Dame Nellie Melba's autobiography. He was "of the moment & in the swim". But the moment passed & it never came back. Freeze-dried by fame, his youthful talent never matured. Silliness stayed with him all his life & led him to back many a wrong cause, including, well into 1938, Nazism. The story of his life is best read as a 20th-century literary Morality tale. It begins with a young man, his little suitcase making everyone swoon for miles & miles; it ends with the stinkiest stink pot, old & sour, yearning for the knighthood he feels sure is his due.

sequel to his Memoirs

Andrei Sakharov; Moscow & Beyond, 1986-1989. He came to stand for the nation's conscience, for the human spirit in its struggle for freedom. He spoke poorly in public, & was often hard to understand. The KGB

continued to harass him & his wife Elena Bonner, despite their newly gained power both the Soviet ship in the Kremlin. Gorbachev saw in him a useful ally & made to famous phone-call to Gor Gorky to radio him from exile. After his return to Moscow, he was offered a conspicuous new residence, befitting his title & fame. He turned it down & remained in the two-room apartment belonging to his mother-in-law, where he had lived before his exile. He was rehabilitating the early admirers of Yeltsin, rightly regarding his popularity as "dependent on Gorbachev's 'unpopularity.'" The crucial turning-point was his explosive charge at a Canadian press conference in Feb. 1988 that Soviet helicopters had shot at their own troops in Afghanistan to prevent them from being taken prisoner. After a painful attempt to defend his statement and idea of "Shame!" at the Congress of People's Deputies the following June, Gorbachev told him: "It's a shame you talk so much." From that moment on, he became the principal target of abuse for Communist hard-liners.

TLS, May 10, 1991

Nicholas Boyle, Goethe: The Poet & the Age. vol. 1, The Poetry of Desire (1749–1790). "Desire" sent Goethe for the first 40 yrs of his life on a tireless search for experience, propelling him from project to project as well from woman to woman. He acquired a facility in Latin & several modern languages without mastering the grammar of any. He was later capable of writing in the "salacious obscurity of the learned tongue" and despite the 19th-cent. Latin pornography, he acquired a tutor to help him polish the Latin of his dissertation. He became something of a rococo dandy,

expecting his motor to bring 3 separate outfits each ~~day~~ morning from which he might select his costume for the day. In 1768 a severe haemorrhage, precipitated in all likelihood by tuberculosis, necessitated his withdrawal from the University of Leipzig without a degree. In 1771 he left the University of Strasbourg with a dissertation licentiate in lawbut without a doctorate. He was appointed to the Duke of Saxe-Weimar's Privy Council, becoming, as Keyserling quipped wickedly, "the factotum of all Weimar". In 1876-8, he visited Italy, led a vie de Bohème & had in all likelihood his first sexual experience. Liberated culturally & sexually, he sought to prolong his dolce vita in Weimar. But his liaison with a young woman of the Weimar middle class, Christiana Vulpius, scandalized polite society & caused a lasting breach in his friendship with Frau von Stein. A brief trip to Venice in 1790 was disenchanting & Goethe realized that his desire for Italy, now fulfilled, was past. Contending that there was such a thing as unified period of cultural history as the Goethezeit (H. A. Korff's term), Boyle aligns himself implicitly with Gerhard Schulz (Die deutsche Literatur zwischen Französischer Revolution und Restauration), Gert Mattenklott (Klassik und Romantik: Deutsche Literatur im Zeitalter der Französische Revolution), & others. Reacting against positivism, the proponents of Geistesgeschichte played down biographical detail in an effort to get at what Friedrich Gundolf called Goethe's Gestalt. Karl Victor's Goethe (1949) & Emil Staiger's Goethe (1952-9) are supreme examples of laying the biography aside & reading Goethe's work

W.

He seems to have chosen the various women in the first half of his life because for one reason or another they were sexually unavailable— Friederike Brion, Lotte Buff, Lili Schönemann, Charlotte von Stein: Whenever a relationship threatened him "with fixity, with 'being' rather than the infinite charm of 'becoming'" he fled. He realized at 40 that the alternative to "desire" was not possession but renunciation. Before the Reformation, suicides fell under the condemnation both of the Church, which denied the sinner a requiem burial in consecrated ground, & of common custom, which prescribed the additional penalty of crossroads or highway burial with no coffin & a stake driven through the suicide's body. These penalties were rarely enforced, because juries charitably returned verdicts of *non compos mentis* to prevent the Crown confiscating the person's property. The Devil, as instigator of suicide, had disappeared from public realm & to an unspecified degree from the problem, & the act had become a "rational choice or a medical calamity." Secularization had set.

Most Left celebration depended on an apparatus, or carapace, of Marxist concepts & the lingo which went with them. Now the Marxist emperor has no clothes, his generative organ — from which sprang whole schools of "scientific" understanding of history, politics & economy — withered, shrunken. But acknowledgment of error in theory, & recognition of failure in practice, there is rarely a murmur. The all-knowing armchair critics of this & every other social order have found their study floors cave in beneath them. Some younger Left intellectuals in Britain have turned back to "revisionism"

of yesteryear — basically that of Kautsky — added a fashionable garnish of street-wise pop & gay culture, & found hitherto hidden virtues in Labour. The least honest on the left, many of them Trotskyites, have gratefully tried to claim that the revolutions of the East, the existential crisis of "official" Communist parties, partly their handiwork, & left-wing disarray mean that the scale of the socialist failure is beyond the *New Left Review*. Galileo, possessed of the truth & placed under duress for it, recanted; Marxists, themselves progeny of the Age of Enlightenment, betray the truth in their very silence. What have Christopher Hill & Eric Hobsbawm, Perry Anderson & E. P. Thompson to say now of Revolution, class & Empire? The reach stunted exceeds the grasp, or what's a heaven for? What to read now that the old Left texts are remaindered? The left intelligentsia remains in its tents as the sandstorm of change rages round it.

Lionel Trilling: "To mistrust a certain sensitivity, 'the long view' is the falsest historical view of all, & indeed the insistence on the largest of perspective is intended precisely to overcome sensitivity — seen from a sufficient distance, it says, the corpse & hacked limbs are not so very terrible, & eventually even begin to compose themselves into a 'meaningful pattern'." When a salad starts talking about "the purpose of history", a cry of fake reach for their shootin' irons

Dr Lesley A. Hall's attempt at "deconstructing the monolithic phallus", *Hidden Anxieties: Male Sexuality 1900–1950*." Whatever the

hid behind the language barrier.
He sought my expertise before putting forward his hypotheses.

social potency of men... Their actual potency is always dubious & open to question".

Kenneth L. Woodward, Making Saints mentions Queen Isabella of Spain, who died in 1504, & wonders what conceivable "pastoral" purpose would be served by beatifying her now. When her beatification — the first stage of canonization — seemed imminent last November, questions were asked not about the possible good, but the certain harm it would do. Muslims & Sephardic Jews, expelled from Spain by Isabella in 1492, protested. King Juan Carlos of Spain joined his Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in saying that intolerance was not an aspect of Hispaniad they wished to commemorate in the fifth centenary year. She also contradicts the Church's teaching on freedom of conscience firmly restated by Pope John Paul II in his 1991 message for World Peace Day: "no one may be compelled to believe". Up to 1988 the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, known as "the Saint-making department" was in the hands of the haughtily dismissive Cardinal Pietro Palazzini. What impertinence on the part of kings & prime ministers, Muslims & Jews, to tell the Holy See who is not a saint? It is "interference in the affairs of another state". Woodward cheerfully exercises what President Mitterand calls "le devoir d'ingérence" (or droit d'ingérence). Of 241 saints canonized between 1000 & 1987 only 56 were laymen (Sir Thomas More) & only 20 were lay-women (mostly queens). Virgins, especially if they were Italian, French, or Spanish, stood the best chance of "being raised to the altar". Today, of course, they'd score bonus points.

A dainty-chain of argument with little logic beyond its rhetoric.

TLS, March 15, 1991

His lexical sweet tooth remains in danger of becoming carious, to borrow a phrase of Sparrisky's. Wallace Stevens: "Tell X that speech is not dirty silence/Clarified. It is silence made still dirtier."

Igor Golotussky declares, in an article in Novy mir, pointedly entitled "The Collapse of Abstractions", that "the heart of a man can belong to a woman, a friend, a father or mother, but not to the party. You can love your country, or a house that holds people you love, but it impossible to love an organization, be it a party, a trade-union, the Council of Ministers or the U.N." A ground-clearing operation began some two years ago. A wholesale reclamation of the Russian past, political & literary — "raising sunken ships", as Marietta Chudakova calls the process. Past wars were partial & strictly regulated. The bureaucracy of the USSR Writers' Union saw to it that writers stood always over them the unblinking eye of political surveillance from above, stunned always for their shoulders an iron hand holding them back from a "false step". Andrei Sinyavsky ("Abram Tertz"), Soviet Civilization: A Cultural History: "If not Lenin's outsized head that led him to found a "Scholars' State". Lenin's head weighed him down in childhood, throwing him off balance & causing him to fall. He died from sclerosis of brain." Lenin evidently lacked the irrationality that is natural in any person ... his rationalism assumed irrational proportions." The official Soviet language serves "not only as a substitute for reality, but as a substitute for language."

*The humanities departments at Stanford, Berkeley, Harvard, Yale, Michigan, Princeton, etc. are all bastions of tenured radicals & proponents of every trendy item on the multiculturalist agenda.

The former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt once said, The Soviets' idea of a secure border is one with their troops on both sides.

The Rev Jesse Jackson marched with 500 students at Stanford to advocate abolishing the one required course in Western Civilization, chanting "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Western Culture's got to go!" *

TLS, March 8, 1991

J. W. Binns, Intellectual Culture in Elizabethan & Jacobean England: The Latin Writings of the Age. In the death of English Faculty orthodoxy, he argues that one should not look to the drama of Shakespeare, the verse of Marlowe or the prose of Sidney for the true character of Elizabethan & Jacobean England. Latin remained for most purposes a far more useful & expressive language than English. Latin continued to be the dominant form of expression for English intellectuals, in poetry, history & philosophy. His book amounts to an atlas of a largely unknown intellectual territory. English intellectuals were bred in schools & universities where they spoke & wrote Latin, & inhabited as adults an intellectual world in which what happened abroad & was recorded in the tongue of learning could stir them to passionate excitement. Men as characteristically English & modern as Henry Wotton & John Donne were steeped in the Latin literature & the recondite concerns of late Renaissance humanism. Few students of English literature or history are trained to read the sort of Latin such history and literature were written in. Renaissance Latin literature is not only important to English culture, but not superior to the vernacular. J. W. Baldwin's magisterial

Both his successes & failures challenge us to rethink the problem
consigned to the one-flowing dustbin of history

survey of WM. Shakespeare's Small Latine & Lesse Greek & Leonard
Forster's brilliant little essay The Icy Fire argued for the prevalence of bi- and multilingualism. Cultivated Romans had constructed Latin literature by imitating the Greeks. Cultivated Italians had done the same in their language by emulating the Romans. And cultivated Frenchmen, Dutchmen, Germans & Englishmen could do the same again — so entire after entire explained. There is little English Renaissance Latin that one would read now if one were not paid to do so: the years of five-finger exercises in Latin ~~fractions~~ structures they may have had their best results in the vernacular dramas, lyric poems & essays that still move & amuse us. Many cultivated Englishmen moved as readily between languages as between disciplines. (especially in lyric mode)

Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones's skill in Greek verse composition is legendary
Dodds on his The Greeks & the Irrational: "I stressed the element
of change in Greek belief, you stress the element of continuity: we are
both of us right, though both of us at times exaggerate the partial
truth we are stressing." Lloyd-Jones counts himself among the
"English empiricists who in their youth were often told by a famous
scholar who began his career in Germany but finished it with
us, that Geistesgeschichte was only a polite name for fluetsch".
The Labour Party Conference's rediscovery of the lounge suit
& tie was an encouraging symptom of civility but not without its
comic aspect. They show exactly what has already been swallowed & how
many words remain to be eaten.

Kingsley Amis, Memoirs. One of his most commonly praised talents is to catch hold of words floating in the air in pubs & parties & to hold them up to ridicule through constant repetition. No one who read Jake's Thing, for instance, could ever again use the word "Cheers" without first placing around it as many ironical quotation marks as he could muster. Of the years, "thing" itself has become an Amis word, along with "sort of thing" & "or something" & "that kind of thing". These shorthand symbols of robust good blokeishness have gradually seeped into Amis's own voice. In—Memoirs, there is a "thing" or "that (the) kind of thing" or "the sort of thing" on almost every page. It comes as a pleasant surprise when the address & date at the end of the two-page preface is simply given as "Primrose Hill May 1990", rather than "Anyway, Primrose Sort of Hill Thing, Maybish 19-bloody-90. Or Something". The Amis blokeishness in anecdote, addressing the whiskery foxes of a bluff & charmingly trusty retired Major, of the type that so often crops up in the works of Agatha Christie. His chosen tone has the chummines, detachment & naughtiness of the lounge bar. The merciless sketches of fleeting encounters with the famous (e.g. Lord Snowdon, Donald Webster, Lord David Cecil, Mark Thatcher et al) are well matched to the saloon bar tones. Tom Driberg chases Martin Amis 5 times around a bed before clapping him on the shoulder, saying "Fair enough, gangster" & departing. Having tackled Philip Larkin for meanness, & emotional parsimony, & fear of failure, he once again puts into print something that the whole of his "best friend" would have hated, a dirty story of drunken incontinence. Larkin "extracted

Evelyn Waugh's famous gatepost notice: "No admittance on Tuesdays"

from me some sort of promise not to go round repeating it... But now I consider released from that undertaking." That "some sort of" is the phrase is most telling: it means that so long as you know a chuckle-sheet of publicity to override any promise, it is immediately transformed into "some sort of promise" & can be then be broken for a bit of a chuckle. He seems to consider death itself as some sign of failure, for he takes a particularly repulsive pleasure standing & makes mouthing the language of mourning while all the time tapping a merry beat with his feet. Given the widespread view that Amis's first novel was also his best, it seems that the special care he takes to beat up those contemporaries whose bright futures now lie behind them could be a means of bolstering his own success, of rubbing that knighthood & those sales in their mouths. His extraordinary memory for times past (when A did not buy his round, so he had to buy lunch to B, eventually calls his own generosity into question. Which is the meaner, the man who forgot his wallet, or the man who 30 yrs later remembers the man who forgot his wallet? The Aspern Papers is "the only work" of Henry James's that Amis has "ever read to its conclusion". It is often said of actors that off-stage they turn into their roles, & of dog owners that they grow to look their dogs. Amis's autobiographical persona is like one of his comically grotesque characters. Sir Kingsley Amis's Memoirs, serialised in the Sunday Times & exaggeratedly described by the papers as delivering "jaw-dropping revelations", are finally published. Eagerly awaited or not, Sir Kingsley's Memoirs have quickly attracted criticism as fierce as that directed at Lucky Jim in 1954.

Somerset Maugham famously said then that Lucky Jim was about the "White collar proletariat", characterized thus: "They do not go to the university to acquire culture, but to get a job, & when they have got one, scamp it. They have no manners. Their idea of a celebration is to go to a public house & drink six beers. They are mean, malicious & envious. Charity, kindliness, generosity, are qualities which they hold in contempt. They are scum." It is not always remembered that Maugham was intending to praise Amis for having brilliantly described this low class, rather than suggest that Amis himself belonged to it. ✱ "They will in due course leave the university. Some will doubtless sink back, perhaps with relief, into the modest class from which they emerged... Others will become schoolmasters & form the young; become journalists & mould public opinion. A few will go into Parliament become Cabinet Ministers & rule the country. I look upon myself as fortunate that I shall not live to see it." One may perhaps take it that he would not have been among Mr Major's advisers. Or, nowadays, Mr Sir Kingsley's

The Cambridge philosopher Maurice Cornforth surely reaches the nadir of Communist apologetics: "A Socialist State... can do no wrong, & it is doing no wrong, & that is what we have to stick to, & these are the reasons why personally I continued to turn political somersaults or about-turns: Like the Berlin wall, the bamboo wall will fall: the question is not if but when. TLS, April 12, 1991

Gillian Avery, The Best Type of Girl shows the paradox of the mock Masculinity into which educational feminism all too easily drove

its dogmas & its victims. Women out to show they could do what men could do readily enslaved themselves to male models. The heroine of popular genre of school stories were shown as honorary boys. In the late early 1930s, a really promising oar, a cricketer or a footballer (the "Blood"), strode among the schoolboys as a demi-god. But once it became clear that even the most respectable colleges had to draw the line somewhere, the lesser fry realised that their ideal had, after all, a head of clay. The raising of the standard of university entrance changed the whole attitude to work in the schools. Schools are potentially explosive pressure-cookers of seething energy & incipient anarchy

Fifthly, The Odd Woman. An "Odd Woman" was one of the increasing horde of unmarried women, the spinster who could not find a husband to pair off with her. The single woman who actively embraced her freedom at the end of the last century was dubbed the "New Woman". Like the Odd Woman, the New Woman regarded herself as a chaste but maternal herald of a higher race. Not all New Women were in favour of celibacy, e.g. Olive Schreiner & Eleanor Marx Charles Legal, Luxurious on Death & Anxiety. No philosopher in history has had as bad a press as Epicurus. By some paradoxical fetish his name has become synonymous with the very thing he preached against. Hedonistic in fantasy, Ben Jonson's Sir Epicure Mammon dreams of the "pleasures" commonly misassociated with the Greek philosopher.

the essence of the original Epicurean philosophy of life is contained in a formula known as "quadruple remedy" (tetrapharmakon): "God entertains; death unworry; the good acceptable; the bad endurable" (David Furley). Unlike Plato's Academy or Zeno's Stoa, Epicurus' "Garden" was no mere school: it was a kind of commune whose disciples not only learnt the words of the master, but emulated his life-style. More unusual still was the fact that the membership included women — wives & hetairai — as well as slaves, an egalitarianism matched only in later ages by the early Christian communities. Its watchword as for the Cynics ("Keep low profile"): forsake the pursuit of honor, power, or wealth, not to mention lauta cuisine. The highest goal of an Epicurean disciple was ataraxia — tranquillity of mind. In De Rerum Natura, II, 29 ff. there is a description of it. This peaceful image has an implicitly frightening, existential corollary that Man's alone in the universe, & religious worship avails not". Lucretius's great poem is informed by a perpetual tension between Todesangst & "peace of mind". Lucretius must have known Catullus's work, since they were both protégés of the politician Gaius Memmius. St Jerome provides some lurid anecdotal details, claiming that Lucretius was driven mad by an aphrodisiac & "per interualla insaniae", wrote verses which, after his suicide, were "edited" (emendare) by Cicero. His poem is not only the earliest extant dialectic poem in Latin, but the most detailed presentation of Epicurean thought in either of the classical tongues. Both its style & content deeply influenced Virgil. Though he attacks the superstitious fear of the gods, he nonetheless fervently dedicates his poem to Venus Genetrix — & the

The Meal makes a big hole in hisfee.

inspiring power of her *voluptas*. It is not sufficient to dismiss this as mere literary convention or to argue that *voluptas* is merely a translation of *hedone*. The striking conclusion of Bk III is a vivid tableau of the sinners in Hades (by a poet who does not believe in an afterlife: Tantalus, Sisyphus & others suffering for their "non-Epicurean" on Earth. The next book portrays destructive madness (*furor, rabies*) brought on by sexual passion. Segal offers an incisive reading of the entire poem as "the struggle against anxiety & particularly anxiety towards death (*Tales angst*)." Cicero dismisses Lucretius only once, in a letter to his brother: "[His poem] many flashes of genius. Nevertheless, it has a good deal of *ars* as well." Torrents of scholarly ink have flowed, trying to decipher what Cicero means by *ars*.

Graham Greene insisted: "I belong on the side of the Victims", while he actually enjoyed the privileges of Wilde's Club, of Antibes & the boulevard Malesherbes.

Once confirming evidence comes to light the theory can be said to exist: the facts supplement it. When Harvey's theory was confirmed by the discovery of capillaries, the theory did not evolve into a fact. Rather it disappeared, to be displaced by something different.

TLS, May 17, 1991

E. V. Rieu's tr. of *The Odyssey* was a huge success. This prose version judged the problem of the Homeric repeated formulaic passages, it tended to smooth away the gods, it read too much like a novel. Rieu translated the *Iliad* in the same manner. D. C. H. Rieu has now extensively revised

2 The Clockmakers Outcry Against the Author of the Life & Opinions of Tristram Shandy
a rare anonymous pamphlet published shortly after the first 2 vols, tells of a fearful falling-off in the clockmakers' trade, because "this forerunner of Antichrist" has so linked the winding of a clock with "some little family contentments". Heedless of his father's version of Odyssey. L. V. R. made a point of avoiding the phrase, common in Homer, "winged words". Homeric poems are characterized by exact verbal repetitions, which Rieu studiously avoided by variation.
Frank Ramsey died by medical misadventure — an ill-advised operation to discover the cause of persistent jaundice — before his 27th birthday. In psychology, the mind tries to catch it's own tail. In a spiteful diary entry on Wittgenstein, Ramsey is characterized as a "bourgeois thinker". Perhaps that was the underside of the measured thanks he allotted to Ramsey's "always certain & forceful criticisms" of the Tractatus in the foreword to Philosophical Investigations (1953).
Castro's "closer democracy" took the form of a speech to the masses on average every 4 days. His charisma wears off with use. He had numerous mistresses — mostly upper-class revolutionary groupies. One of his mistresses complained, "He took his pants down," so on with the job & went back to his books. His wife's acceptance of a hotel & a cushy job, from Batista who had just imprisoned her husband, made him bitterly disillusioned; a later stab at marriage came to nought.
Cubans were given not bread at home but circuses abroad. Castro was not the sole client of his secret paymasters. The inhabitants of a shabby society of shortages are continually admonished to sacrifice the present & the future in another round of belt-tightening. The Revolution has devoured some of its chosen sons. Young Cubans cannot but envy the enjoyments of a consumer society daily brought home to them from Miami.
"No modest lady now dares to mention a word about winding-up a clock, without blushing ready to the ears; a joke of the family, to her frequent confusion. Nay, the common expression of street-walkers is, 'Sir will you have your clock wound-up?'..."

Though innocence is unaware, modesty needs something to be about.

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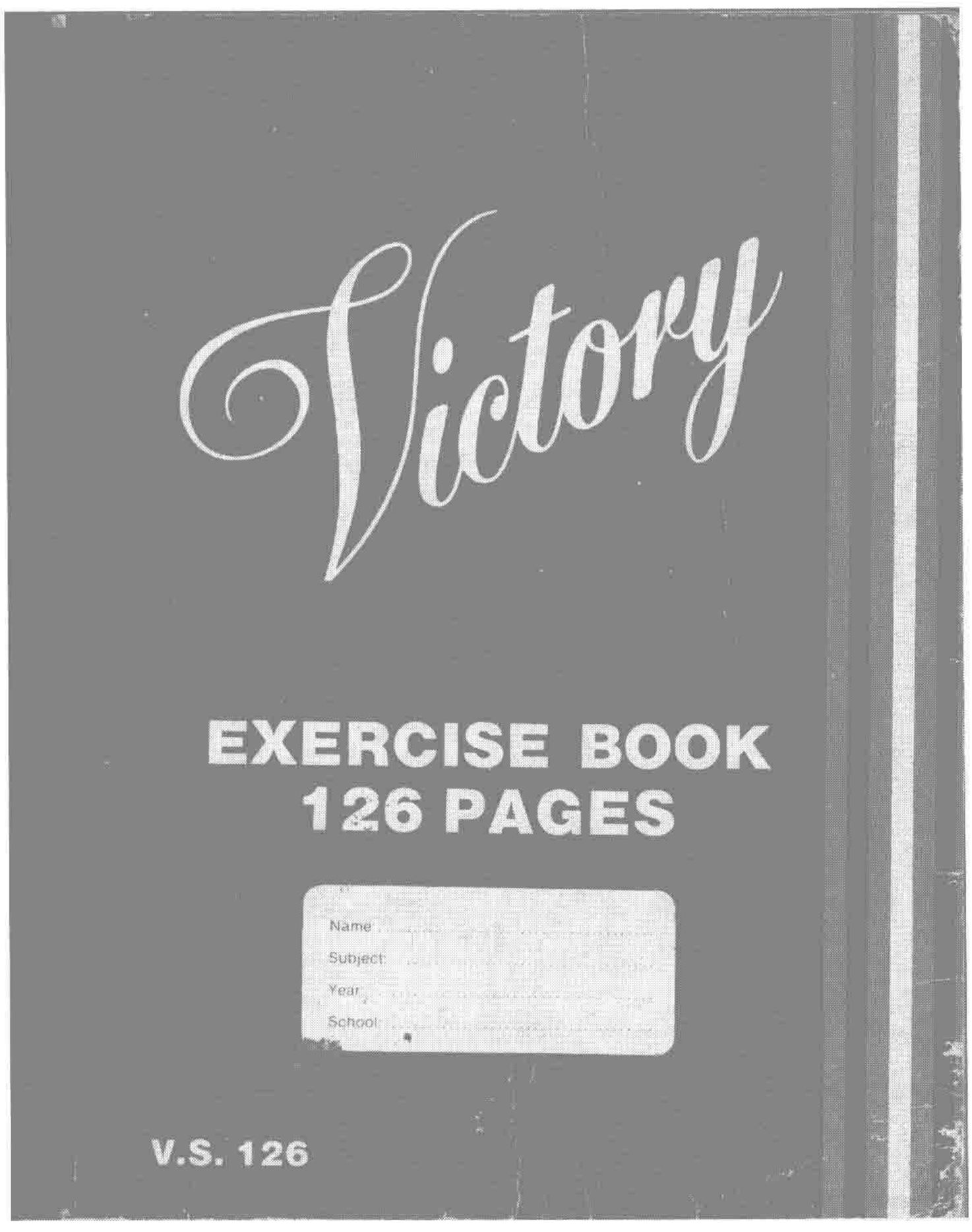

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* of London Review of Books, 8 March 1990 ** TLS, Aug. 17-23, 1990, "Letters", p. 873 "Aside from an occasional glass of German white wine, Randall served alcohol (chiefly Scotch) only to guests. He himself rarely drank more than a single glass of beer in the course of the evening."

TLS, July 27-Aug. 2, 1990

During their lives Robert Lowell always had a topical edge over Elizabeth Bishop, but the passing of time has now taken it from him.

Tom Dardis, The Thirsty Muse: Alcohol & the American Writer + Towards the end of his short life, Raymond Carver was fond of saying that he believed the incidence of alcoholism among writers was no higher than among accountants or landscapers. Though I'm loath to challenge him on a subject in which he possessed such intimate expertise, his pronouncement seems to fly in the face of empirical evidence. Another American fiction writer told me recently that he'd given up trying to entertain male novelists in groups because they were all either conspicuously on the wagon or righteously on the waggon. You or I could never be sure who would be which. The alcoholic stereotype of American poets, the doomed post-war bards — Berryman, Lowell, Roethke, Jarrell** & Schwartz, was examined in Eileen Simpson's Poets in their Youth (1982). Their fiction-writing contemporaries, Kerouac, Cheever & Capote, for instance, were hardly more abstemious. It is by now widely accepted that Fitzgerald, Hemingway & Faulkner all had drinking problems. Fitzgerald was probably the first to be perceived as a victim of alcohol, among other afflictions. Hemingway spoke & wrote about drinking as one of the manly sports. Faulkner proclaimed that "civilization begins with distillation". When questioned by Joseph Cape about the making of a particularly difficult passage in one of his novels, he replied defiantly that he didn't exactly know what he had intended since he was "all corned-up" when he wrote it. Since E. A. Poe collapsed in a gutter, an inordinate number of American writers have been alcoholics. For Norman Mailer's generation, & for the next, the myth created by Hemingway and company

was itself a powerful incentive to drink. In order to make his case Howe Furness never lost his talent by the age of 45, & this has led to eliminate later works such as Intruder in the Dust & The Reivers. For every time the drunk himself to a premature grave must have come as the just drinking & lost his creative spark, Faulkner being only the most famous example. As an editor H. H. Furness is negligible, despite the many significant personal contributions to scholarship. The President of the American Academy of Arts & Letters yelled at him in public through his formidable ear trumpet that his Hopes on Shakespeare were indistinguishable in quality from the rest. A rich Philadelphian, Furness was a Quaker who married an heiress & never worked except on his country estate. There, in his well-stocked private library, he plugged away at volume after volume of the New Variorum Shakespeare. When he died in 1912, his son continued the task. Scholarship formed only a part of Furness's life. His faith in Spiritualism induced for 6 months to wear "mediumistic" blotting paper sewed from a "Medium" & to sit in darkness for half an hour each night weekly — in vain — for spirit messages.

The West Germans are bitterly divided as to whether the Third Reich should be relativized through causal analogies with Stalin's Russia, or wrapped up & consigned to the past, or continually probed for political effect & self-therapy as if the period were like a Neanderthal tooth. They are obsessed with dying seas, rivers bearing comatose fish, or radioactive, tree-grazing deer in Bavarian forests. Moral responsibility for their friends & relatives across the Wall is being rapidly supplanted by resentment over the material benefits afforded to East German Übersiedler, set above the Polish, Romanian or Soviet ethnic German Aussiedler, whose connections with

the (Federal) Republic are at last demanded. Hard-hitting investigative magazine-like Stern or Spiegel & newspapers longer & more in-depth opinionation but short on hard news coverage.

Helmut Schmidt's Men & Power: A Political Retrospective is a candid & clichéridden (Al Haig) account of the diplomatic round in the 1970s. Deng Xiaoping is portrayed as an affable pragmatist. The West German delegation to China was taken aback by all the lip-smacking & slurping of their hosts during a banquet & by Deng Xiaoping's disconcerting habit of punctuating his conversation by directing well-aimed gobs of phlegm at a spittoon placed fully a yard away from where he was sitting. What the hosts thought of the Chancellor's habit of taking snuff is not recorded.

"Retroduction", "hypothesis" & "abduction" are terms used interchangeably by C. S. Peirce to describe a process of reasoning quite distinct from induction. "Abduction is the mode of reasoning underlying hypothesis formation. It proceeds from the observation of a surprising fact to a hypothesis which would explain the fact. Induction, on the other hand, merely generalizes from what we already know. It does not give us anything different or novel by way of a hypothesis. "Hypothesis explains; induction merely classifies." Abduction is exemplified in detective fiction, in medical diagnosis & in scientific discovery. Peirce believed that abductive inference underlies most of our cognitive life. Umberto Eco has theorized abduction as a semiotic mechanism, etc.

Read the Greeks to free ourselves from the tyranny of the present. Greek empiricists rejected the use of reason. Memory suffices. Michael Frede shows how "memorists" reasonably thought they could account for the origin, nature & growth of the kind of experience which constitutes technical knowledge or expertise by invoking perception. Their conception of memory differs from ours, & so does their notion of reason. For them reason is only reason if it follows the syllogistic deductive pattern set out in

Logic TLS, Aug. 10-16, 1990

839 David Lodge, After Bakhtin. A long time ago (as I now seems) Karl Shapiro was writing in Poetry magazine that the stuff needed for its enjoyment "the open perception of the healthy human organism." Leavis, & therefore I. A. Richards, were saying much the same thing. But a doubt was already cast on Richards's Practical Criticism revealed all too clearly the limitations of "the healthy human organism" when it belonged to young & undirected students. Screen Reader I Edited by John Ellis, is a miscellany which seems to be closely, even incestuously, related to Reading Relations: Structures of Literary Production, by Bernard Sharratt bearing on its cover the plug by Terry Eagleton, "This is an absolutely important first-rate book", & recommended to daily world as to suggest it might have penned by some English-speaking Papal secretary. A contributor & a reviewer inside Screen Reader I called Best prints out that Althusserian-Lacanian discourse is hardly the best way of attacking the Revelation because "your enemies don't read it & a lot of your allies can't". In his last chapter, "A Kind of Business: The academic critic in America", Lodge describes the operation of the "star-system": by cliques & by intrigue each centre of learning schemes to enhance its image by acquiring the big names, the real pros. "Leavis is an authority & charisma depended crucially on his not having been given the conventional honours & rewards of academic distinction, & he paraded the slights he suffered from the Cambridge English Faculty like the stigmata of his office." Criticism in Society consists of a series of interviews by Imre Salusinszky with several of the most illustrious ~~pro~~ American pros in the lit business. All struck a defensive note; not about their salaries — for although $150,000 is maybe four or five times that an English academic

gets it is chicken feed compared with the earnings of successful American
business, doctors, & lawyers — but about their status as radicals. They want
to strike a blow for freedom, truth & justice, & such a blow is apt to lead
to not much more than another prestigious appointment, with even better
conditions of service. So Harold Bloom stresses his origins as the son of a
New York garment worker, Frank Lentricchia his Calabrian grand-
parents, Bruce children lived in the Italian-American ghetto. The comrade-
ship of the democratic & the professional is expressed in the prescriptive use
of first names only — Frank, Harold, Geoffrey, etc. — in the manner of foot-
ball & tennis stars & party apparatchiks. For every star in the American aca-
demic firmament there are 50 more or less talented testers in the vineyard.
"Although Theory may have its origin in Europe it export it in a new form
all over the world", announced J. Hillis Miller ("the complete American
professional", as Lodge calls him) apparently with innocent pride, in his
recent Presidential Address to the Modern Language Association, & he
named 16 young literary theorists, whom he expected to make their name in the
immediate future. "Imagine being a young American literary theorist & not
being on the list!" Beatties Lodge. The striking thing is that neither Bakhtin
nor his contemporary Volosinov was in the least interested in political ideology.
Surprisingly or not, Harold Bloom seems to have come to the same conclusion
as Auden who held that "the single intuitive glance" is ultimately what matters:
"Nor is one matter except yourself." But the whole protest theory of course
has the last word. "Nor is this self?" repeated Lentricchia mockingly
A year after the Nazis came to power, Ernst Jünger told his readers in
an essay that war was "the true initiation into manhood" ("die eigentliche

Männerbund)". He leader of the Parti de Mouvement, 14 times wounded in the First World War, his courage doubled by scorn, Jünger admired Prussian discipline. "I owe it more than I owe all the schoolmasters & books in the world." This self-styled "anarch" (to be distinguished from an "anarchist") he always saw himself as standing above the Nazi world: above Nazism, above their opponents, above German democracy, above criticism. The anarch is not out to destroy laws (unlike the anarchist); he simply does not recognize them. There is a distinction between importance & greatness. Jünger is not a great writer.

Georgetown University, Christopher Hitchens tells us in Blood, Class, & Nostalgia, anti-plaints Rhodes Scholars with free luxuriance & grease their assimilation into Oxford life (as if anyone other than them still needed). The point is best made by Victor Hanson's well-televised reservations: how formed power be to steer a path to do work handed Britain, having lost an empire, has found a role in civilizing her supplanters. Kipling's injunction to take up the White man's burden was originally addressed to Teddy Roosevelt as a spur to the American occupation of the Philippines. Compromised in Cuba & the Philippines, America derided official censure of British policy in South Africa. Britain played a major role in the setting up of America's first secret intelligence service. "Wherever the U.S. needed to lose any trace of virginity in global affairs, the British were on hand with congratulations, gifts, & all kinds of "a transmission belt by the Rhodes British Conservative Elite have injected America, the better to be retransmitted to England." Its attraction for the British is that it relieves them of the need to learn a foreign language.

Terrell Carver, Friedrich Engels: His Life & Thought. On Engels' ignorance in his

W. V. Quine, Quiddities: An intermittently philosophical dictionary

his sexuality & own political life, hard evidence is lacking. Marx's daughters destroyed most parts of his correspondence which they felt might be hurtful to Engels & so the historian is left with a carefully weeded archive neatly conforming an image of the Marx-Engels relationship carefully projected by Engels himself in the last years of his life. An unchanged reader of the Marx-Engels partnership became an essential part of Soviet Marxism. The effort to detach Marx from the deterministic & authoritarian features of Soviet Communism too often left Engels saddled with responsibility for all the unwanted aspects of 20th-cent. Marxism. Engels never broke off relations with his Conservative family or even with the family business. He enjoyed many aspects of his double life & saw no reason to allow devotion to the revolutionary cause to get in the way of his love of wine & horses. His relationship with the Burns sisters shows that he preferred the companionship of women who were not his intellectual equals & who were in no position to challenge his division between the public & the private or the bourgeois & the revolutionary. His basic view of the world was established very early—a model of revolution derived from France in 1792, and an imperturbable confidence in the revolutionary implications of the Hegelian dialectic: Socialism, as it was understood in the 1840s was defined as much by its challenge to Christianity as it was by its criticism of existing property relationships. In the 1844 Manuscripts Marx defined his "Communism" as a synthesis of atheism & communism.

Tradition delineated Jane Austen's reading to the Bible, Shakespeare, the chief 18th century classics & the English novel in eight. The return of Austen's secret affair has begun with Margaret Butler's Jane Austen & The War of Ideas (1975). Jocelyn Harris, Jane Austen's Art of Memory shows that Austen's reading included Chaucer, Milton, Locke & Others even Coleridge. (Pope)

Winston Churchill's only novel Savrola (1900) written at the age of 23.

TLS, Aug. 17-23, 1990

Physical nature is now our humble & despised slave: we have almost nothing to fear from it, though everything to fear from the effect of our own uncontrolled & perhaps uncontrollable manipulations of it. But when it comes to our understanding of the limits of social development, there has been little if any progress. On the contrary, we have witnessed a total collapse of the most elaborate, best-orchestrated theory of society, born in the 19th century. The dramatic demise of Marxism is perhaps almost as great as the triumph of physics. Andrei Sakharov lived the triumph of physics & the catastrophe of Marxism. He, more than any other one man, helped to end the nuclear monopoly, & thus establish the balance of power — or terror — which is the basic strategic fact of the 2nd half of the century. His appreciation of pre-Petrine Russia is obvious. The contrast with his great opposite number, Solzhenitsyn, who loves pre-Petrine ~~Russia~~ & not post-Petrine Russia, & who opposes Bolshevism not because it differs from the West, but because it is Western, could hardly be clearer. Sergei Vavilov, President of the Soviet Academy of Science, was obliged to meet Lysenko every week, even though it was Lysenko who bore the main responsibility for the death of Vasilov's biologist brother, Nikolai. The paradox of one brother dying of hunger in prison, while the other was being heaped with honours, sums up Russia in a way. Beria used his position to drive around Moscow in his limousine, picking out women whom his henchmen then brought to his apartment for a nomenklatura rape.

Gérard de Nerval first appeared on the Parisian literary scene in 1826 as something of a boy wonder, publishing 6 separate volumes of political & satirical verse in his 18th year alone, followed a yr later by his teenage translation of Goethe's Faust. He mastered the art of poetic ventriloquism at a tender age. His accomplished imitations of Virgil, Horace & Boileau dutifully observe the canons of neo-classicism in a year-old patriotic reaction against the Anglophilia of contemporary French

tight security to protect him

Romanticism. The only modern British poet who finds grace in his eyes is Byron. His utter disillusionment with the July Revolution of 1830 as the new hegemony of the bourgeoisie: "Car la société n'est pas un marais fétide / Dont le fond sans nul doute est seul pur et limpide / Mais où ce qui se voit de plus sale, de plus / Sinistre aux yeux est surnage, vient toujours par-dessus." The "Odelettes" that he published between 1831 & 1855 restore to the French lyric a melodic line not heard since the Renaissance, blending the Stimmung of the German Lied with the melopoeia of the Ronsardian lyric. He was taken on by Alexandre Dumas as a nègre, but his failure in the theatre left him no other financial recourse but the well-paying career of a newspaper columnist. In 1840 he found the time to rush a non-French version of the Complete Faust into print. He was committed to a clinic for the mentally deranged. All told, he spent 9 months in bed-lein in 1841 — the first in a series of hospitalizations that culminated in the prolonged internment of 1853-4 immediately preceding his suicide. Much of his fame has traditionally rested on the rumour of madness surrounding his name (cf. Eliot's *Waste Land* or Breton's surrealist manifestoes). Because little is known about the exact causes or circumstances of the breakdown in 1841. The supposedly eye-witness accounts of his contemporaries trivialize his mental disarray into the charmingly batty antics of a fou délicieux (such as Gautier's celebrated canard about Nerval strolling a lobster on a leash. Dumas's memoirs of Nerval are a mine of misinformation: e.g. Nerval's lunacy comes out as an acute case of hopelessness, brought on by the death of Jenny Colon — a complete fabrication, seeing as the actress died more than a year after his initial hospitalization. Dumas self-smugly claims to have visited Nerval regularly in his maison de santé, but the only pages in his account that ring vaguely true are wholesale

the devastating effect on Genet & Sartre's premature canonization of him.
In front of the railway station there is a floating population of prostitutes, pickpockets & other market-economy detritus. Their operation had a feel of make-work exercise before they find some saleable task.
lifts from Nerval's own Aurélia.

M. H. Abrahms. Doing Things with Texts: Essays in Criticism & Critical Theory. Known as a traditionalist champion of the critical Right. Abrahms was not only arguing the case for the necessity of theory before many of today's theoreticians were born, but is most substantially reconciled to the principles, if not the practices, of current theory as well. It is not deconstruction itself by which he is "radically unpersuaded," but rather a few essays by J. Hillis Miller. F. R. Leavis describes criticism as a statement made in the form of "This is so, isn't it?" & is met with a response of, "Yes, but...". But in the overheated atmosphere of literary discussion in the U.S. today, one is likely to hear in reply a hissed "Fascist pig!" or an indifferent "So what?"

TLS, Aug. 3-9, 1990.

Even after 4 years after the accident of Chernobyl's fall-out, we still do not know the names of the physicists & engineers who conducted those unsuccessful tests; nor have their superiors & the officials who permitted the operations of the reactor been brought to justice. Glasnost still has some way to go. If we indict the secrecy endemic to the Soviet nuclear programme for placing human life & health in grave jeopardy, then we must apply the same test to the West. Although some 220,000 American servicemen have been exposed to significant radiation at atmospheric test-sites from 1946-1962, so have an estimated half of the 600,000 workers in nuclear weapons plants from 1945 to the present, the U.S. Government has for years falsely denied full medical records on these individuals & has been keenly obstinately resisted any claims for compensation for injuries to their health. Thus the Government has settled claims with the 24,000 citizens of Fernald, Ohio, who have been breathing in hundreds of

thousands of pounds of uranium dust since 1951 from the local weapons plant, the money was said to be compensation for emotional distress & loss in property values. No health injury was admitted. Doctors at American Government facilities kept epidemiological records on individuals at risk, but they were not notified the victims of radiation exposure themselves. Dr Thomas F. Mancuso, who published his findings about the danger to workers of low-level radiation, was promptly fired.

The character Don Juan is a product of the early modern elevation of man's (not woman's) sexuality into a governing principle of life. His every intrigue demonstrates that, though women give his existence meaning, one woman might as well be another. This locus classicus of this irony is Mozart's "catalogue aria", sung with cynical gusto by the Don's manservant Leporello ("Mille e tre"). A very ironic character, who might prompt deep thought about the philosophy of love (Kierkegaard) or the Life Force (Shaw).

Goethe & Schiller felt the need to correct Shakespeare's mistake, smooth his roughness & elevated his "low" style. Wieland translated 22 of the plays into prose — his Werke 1762-66 known to Goethe & Schiller — a labour of admiration, yet accompanied by high-minded footnotes deploring Shakespeare's punning & vulgarity. This ambivalence is exemplified in Goethe's essay "Shakespeare und kein Ende!" ("Shakespeare ad infinitum!") which expresses both his excitement & his desperation with his subject.

When George Eliot's *The Spanish Gypsy* appeared in 1868 the *Spectator* called it "undoubtedly much the greatest poem many a wide page ... which has ever proceeded from a woman." Fragments of her verse appear often as the epigraphs in the later novels, "Old Play" is her favourite Sobriquet

Laura Riding Gottschalk's last name, soon to be discarded, was the relic of a short-lived marriage. "Riding" was a substitute for her family name, Reichenthal. The story of their "literary partnership" most tellingly exhibits to Graves's dominant need to feel subservient. It is a horror-comic psychological drama. Graves's family asserted that Laura "vampirized him." He proposed to write poetry with Laura as his muse & Nancy Nicholson, his wife, as the compliant third member of their ménage à trois. Resentments & misconceptions festered coming to a head when Laura summoned as a further acolyte Geoffrey Phibbs, an Irish Wexford who had sent fan mail about her work to us. Phibbs's casual mention that the wife he'd left behind was talking to Laura kept the belittled Riding hysterically pent up in the lavatory for 8 hours. When Phibbs fled this seething situation, Laura with Graves & Nancy tracked him down to a hotel in Rouen — When he refused to rejoin the "four-some", Laura had tantrums in the public lounge, lying on the floor screaming & waving her legs until removed, on the manager's instructions, by a brace of waiters. When cabbalistic rites & the dispatch through the post of amulets, occult emblems & bus tickets failed to magic Phibbs back to her Laura downed a bottle of disinfectant, then precipitated herself from a fourth-floor window in Hammersmith. Bounding down to retrieve her, Graves lost his grip on the stairs & flung himself from a third-floor window. He escaped injury. But Laura broke four vertebrae, fractured her pelvis in 3 places & cracked her spine. She escaped life-long paralysis seems due to Graves's Latin Rosalie, a trained nurse. Phibbs went to live with Nancy. The irate Graves bombarded Phibbs with demands for the return of some embezzled money he'd lent him, Phibbs countered with charges that Graves & Laura had impounded copies of his book,

89 Partridge, Dict. of Slang, p. 627: "a Welsh 3 misfortune: 'broke his chamber-pot, destroyed 3rd 2 children or so".

The Withering of the Fig Leaf. Graves remained enthralled by Laura & when they fled England to find asylum in Majorca, put himself even more under her sway. Even his Haught-professors were laid open to her severe scrutiny. Of a long draft of poems he supplied her with breakfast in bed, rolled the Cigarettes, she chain-smoked, fetched, carried, shopped & cleaned. Laura no longer slept with him, scorning sex ("the Damned thing") as obsolete. Laura, it seems, made rather a speciality of seeing out "contamination". The reason Phibbs found himself beholden to Graves for the loan of underwear was that she had incinerated his clothes, declaring they had been pollluted through contact with Mrs Phibbs. Years later, claiming that they were defiled by witchcraft, she burned the belongings of another woman whose husband she wanted. In Majorca, when a Elfriede, a German girl, she is claimed to have "allowed" as a tribute for Graves, became pregnant by him, Laura insisted on an abortion & on witnessing it from the end of the bed. Subsequently, hearing that Elfriede—whom she now deemed banished—had reappeared in the locality, she set out to hunt her down, "dead white" & with "a whip in her hand which she kept cracking." She became very hostile to Graves when I, Claudius brought him financial success & surplus from years of pawning & begging-letters. She became violently disenamoured of its popular appeal. A chamber-pot "split neatly in two & cut her bottom right across like the signs of the Cross—the scars she will wear to her dying day." Full release didn't come until she discarded him. The Spanish Civil War uprooted them from Majorca. Schuyler Jackson, an American, affirmed in a Time magazine article that the only genuine 20th-century poets were Rilke & Riding. Laura sped to his Pennsylvania farmhouse & with impressive capacity—won him, lifted her bans on sex, drove his wife into a mental institution & jettisoned Graves, her dutiful slave for almost a decade & a half, informing him that she could not "feel the slightest gratitude for a single thing

Happi Meir Kenegra
He seemed little more than a sick joke on the lunatic fringe of Jewish politics. But he is now the prophet of terrorism & the means to bring Russian Jews in & drive Arabs out. One of his secretaries was sent other from the former Members of the Stern Gang, Yitzhak Shamir, who now heads the Israeli government. he had done". Bowles's neglect of his children & Kenneth's devotion to his long-suffering parents appear particularly alienating. Even when he became disenchanted by her, he still wrote to Gertrude Stein about her as "a very real & beautiful Muse", i.e. The White Goddess, The Source & Inspiration. "The spirit left her & she became common play ground American divorcée - remarried housewife."

I. A. Richards, Selected Letters. At China - at first "Perpetual ... such charming Students", but then "a people now without hope, or any sort of confidence in themselves inside their three thousand years of pride." Wittgenstein was "for philosophy, a totally disaster." A letter of 1973 to Empson describes Leavis as "a frankly comic figure." Of outrage journal with C. K. Ogden & the future policy of Basic English: "Find & pay a mouthpiece of your own, & good luck to you. It's your funeral."

TLS, Aug. 24-30, 1990

C. P. Cavafy spent 7 yrs of his early adolescence in England, so that to the end of his days he spoke Greek with something of an English accent, & the earlier poems show him not to have been altogether at ease in his native language. In his peculiar way he anticipated samizdat — not however mainly for reasons of censorship, though as a homosexual he needed to tread very carefully in a city where a scandal like that of Oscar Wilde would have ruined his life. "I too am Hellenic ... not Greek ... but Hellenic."

Christa Wolf. Was bleibt. Despite daily fear of the regime & espionage almost intolerable pressure, she stayed on in the GDR to exert a humanizing influence & to defend those high ideals which the State proclaimed but did not practise. Now, however, she stands accused of, at best, opportunism & at worst, downright duplicity. Was bleibt has unleashed a storm. Composed all sides by evidence of the State's oppressive nature & Stalinist structure, she is

forced to ask herself "what remains" of the ideals she once cherished. The charge was that she now has the gall to present herself as a victim of those very forces which, by her silence, she helped to preserve. For Brecht, with his Austrian passport & his Swiss bank account, political compromise was a necessity to be exploited to one's advantage.

Franz Boas wanted ethnological & linguistic analysis that would work from native conceptions rather than on forcing the material into terms of European analytic categories. Edward Sapir was early recognized as the pre-eminent linguist among the Boasians. He is best known, to all but linguists, for the so-called ~~Whorf~~ Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, i.e. the idea that language shapes culture. "The forms of language predetermine for us certain modes of observation & interpretation. This means that our scientific experience [...] we must learn to fight the implications of language." His student & colleague Benjamin Lee Whorf developed these ideas; he argued in Language, Thought & Reality that certain problems in modern physics could be better conceptualized in the Hopi language than in "Standard Average European" languages. Sapir was also a pioneer in phonemic analysis or the study of sounds & as systems. His seminal paper "Sound Patterns in Language" (1925) distinguished between sounds as physical phenomenon & the formal patterning that makes sounds meaningful in a particular language. For example, he analyzed the difference between two sounds that are otherwise the same: the *th* sound produced in blowing out a candle & the *th* of the word *then*. For native speakers of English, the latter sound is "unconsciously felt as 'placed' with reference to other sounds." The candle-blowing sound, however, "forms no part of any system of sounds. It is not placed [...] from nor related to other sounds [...] say the sound of humming & the sound of clearing throat." "The candle-blowing sounds

is a directly functional act. On the other hand, the articulation of the <u>Dh</u>-Saind... in <u>When</u> has no direct functional value. It's merely a link in the construction of a Symbol." For Sapir, the anthropologist's description of "a" culture "is a scientific-something of a statistical fiction." "The true locus" of culture "is not in a theoretical community of human beings known as society that in the interactions of specific individuals & , on the subjective side, in the world of meaning which each one of these individuals may unconsciously abstract for himself from his participation in these abstractions. Every individual is, then, ... a representative of at least one sub-culture." People can change culture patterns.

Eternally Marginalized, the SF writer is never quite allowed in from the cold. He is doomed to be the perpetual fringe man. Somebody says there is loading the dice, for sure. Brian Aldiss was not the glamorous Oxford male familiar to so many literary memoirists, but the Oxford of the townie, the denizen of shabby digs, a humble helot in the unionized service industry of the book-shops. Aldiss described for Sanders of the High who cheaply chiselled & ill-treated his employees. His later social & literary position never shamed him quite to throw off its tradesman's entrance feel. He reports in <u>Bury My Heart at W. H. Smith's</u> that at the recent Budapest Congress of World SF it was proposed "that in future all speeches should last only for two & a half minutes & contain at least one joke."

A <u>TLS</u>, Aug. 31 - Sept. 6, 1990

As his fame & wealth increase, the writer's private & public identities diverge. While Dickens's readers warm to Little Dorrit & Arthur Clennam going "quietly down into the roaring streets, inseparable & feigned", their creator is hell-bent on putting aside his wife, the mother of his ten children. Dickens resorts to all sorts of

Subterfuge — false names, coded messages, snatched visits & multiple addresses. He is harried by nervous disorder & exhaustion. A 12-mile walk at a steady pace for a half mile's an hour was his preferred relaxation after a morning's writing. After one quarrel with his wife he slammed out of the house at 2 am & walked 30 miles non-stop. He never seems to have been in repose. He constantly bought it, rented houses in Holthalls. All the beginnings of his married life, his wife's sister Mary lived with them. When she died aged 17 Dickens kept a lock of her hair in a special case, wore her ring, kept all her letters, & said he wished to be buried alongside her. And he told his readers that Mary's death had robbed him of one "whose society had been for a long time the chief solace of his labours." It is difficult to imagine the behaviour & words more certain to wound & undermine his young wife. Rumours spread, the most damaging being that there was impropriety in his relationship with Catherine's other sister, Georgina. Not unaptly in retribution, Dickens turned on his wife & her supporters & determined to vindicate his own conduct & the tarnished innocence of Georgina Hogarth by speaking directly to his readers in Household Words. It was an astonishing miscalculation. John Bull's "Qui s'excuse, s'accuse" was the general verdict.

Anne Sexton's "For my lover, returning to his wife" is a poem as tart, sensuous & moving in its tribute to the other woman. Fleur Adcock's "Against Coupling" is a courageous song of praise for the "solitary act", which can be performed in five minutes "in the bath or to fill that gap between the Sunday papers & lunch". Lawrence Wilde's about love like a chops schoolmaster whose recalcitrant pupils won't do things the right (his) way, or like a small self-important child who has discovered something everyone always discovers & has not the wit to realize that he is not the first.

Louise MacNeice was relieved at Auden's abdication from the Marxist cause: "It seems to me he has made this important discovery — that life is fuller than formula".

Philip Roth, Deception. Philip's lover realizes that his attraction lies in her being Gentile & English, that is, in the cultural displacement he enjoys with her. "Il faut coucher avec son dictionnaire", he tells her. "So our love story isn't a love story, really — it's a cultural story," she concludes, echoing Lionel Trilling from the "Albert Schweitzer" essays — cultural teaching".

T.L.S. Sept. 7-13, 1990:

G.M. Trevelyan's characterization of his genre as "the history of the people with the politics left out". In the late 1950s & 60s social history rose self-consciously in revolt against everything Trevelyan was thought to have stood for. It was much influenced by the mood of the time — decolonization, student protest, active campaign against the Vietnam war — & was inspired by Marxist rhetoric rather than Fabian condescension. It concentrated on the industrial Revolution & its aftermath, & was concerned with the labouring masses rather than the social elite. For E.P. Thompson, Eric Hobsbawm, John Foster, & Harold Perkin, the central concept was class. The overall trajectory of Modern British history was presented in terms of social dynamics: a declining aristocracy, a rising (& decisive) bourgeoisie, & a rising proletariat. Because Marx had said so, they took it for granted that class existed. They placed too much stress on radical political action & ignored Asa Briggs' description of the "play-acting, peer-respecting, foreign-hating" side of the plebeian mind. They too easily assumed that if it was at work, rather than at home, that class consciousness originated, & mistakenly presumed that the experience of factory workers in industrial Lancashire or Yorkshire was the

Peter Todd & Ian Hancock, ed., *International English Usage*, Paperback, £9.99, Routledge, 1990

~~Peter Coyle, Peter~~

National usage. The Marxist input into British scholarship has significantly declined in confidence over the latter years of the recent re-valuation of the Industrial Revolution, which stresses its gradual nature & long-lasting impact, has further undermined the old certainties about class formation & class identity. Recent findings about the close alliance between the bourgeoisie & the aristocracy suggest that the simple tripartite model of Britain's social evolution since the mid-18th century need to be substantially revised. In his recent inaugural lecture as Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, Patrick Collinson ~~felt~~ felt moved to remark (& to mourn?) that social history had now become "a thing" - that area which seems to threaten no-one & to which some ~~once~~ once exercised by political & constitutional history." A mere extension of Bevington's original laundry-list, an inchoate amalgam of fashionable fads, trivial minutiae & prurient sensationalism. Not for nothing was Collinson's inaugural entitled (subtitled) "History with the politics put back." "Class" now seems discredited as an organizing principle. In terms of its popular appeal, social history may now be a hard-hat enterprise; but in terms of its intellectual rigour, it is decidedly soft-centred. Massive social & economic change may coexist with remarkable political stability. Social history is in real danger of fragmentation.

Christopher Dickey, *Expats*. There are at least two types of expatriots, & the Middle East type differs from that living in Europe. By & large, the European expat, be he in Sweden, Hungary or France, makes an effort to become part of his host temporarily adopted culture, to learn the language & to find a circle of friendship among the locals. In the Middle East, the expat's social activities usually involve close relationships with the native population, & only a small effort is made to learn the language, though Arabic is by no means the most difficult thing to say. Russian. Mr Dickey

He has a paper-thin knowledge of the Middle East, of scarcely 5 years duration.

the successful expat that finds forth in real business that he belongs to a higher culture
Given the generosity of George Orwell's In Defence of P. G. Wodehouse, which was
written at a time when Plum's stock was in the cellar, it is sad to find P. G. writing
ungraciously about him 17 yrs later: "George Orwell. Why do the Leftists make
such a pass of him? ... simply wd a stiff do all that?..."
D. H. Lawrence detested the very concept of democracy, & during the First World War
told Bertrand Russell that there must be "an aristocracy of people who have wisdom"
& above them a dictator. He never wavered from that view. In personal & more
~~poor~~ particularly in sexual relationships he stressed the physical supremacy of man over
woman. "After the thigh comes the impulse to throttle" in Aaron's phrase.
His fear of democracy & advocacy of male supremacy are neatly packaged in The Plumed
Serpent. Kate Leslie is so overwhelmed by the Mexican leader Cipriano that she
forgives his murder of three helpless Aztecs on the ground that "his flame is young
& clean". The rag-bag of fears, hatred & worship of the primitive was seen as feminine
nonsense by a majority of readers even after Lawrence's emancipation in the 1950s. At
the end of his life he still desperately asserts the importance of masculine supremacy
in the sexual act. Woolf & White himself nearly or actually impotent. After a bout
of pneumonia in adolescence his voice became high-pitched, "almost like a girl's".
How did anyone manage until 1849? Reference books like Who's Who changed
the journalist's life... Now in its 54th edition, The International Who's Who gen-
erally complements the domestic version. One of the latter's foibles is the large
range of personages who are Who ex officio: every baronet, for example, however
obscure or insignificant, & nobody else, but every peer & every heir to a peerage who
bears a courtesy title & every deceased titled heir & heir. Piggott, Lester Keith,
British flat jockey, now Retired, in the British Who's Who gives no more than a selection

If races won; the International continues, after the same list: "sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment for tax fraud Oct 1987; stripped of OBE June 1988; released after 18 months for good behaviour." It has indeed been one of the serious deficiencies of our own Who's Who that its entries (& the forms sent to candidates) have no heading for "Previous convictions". Debrett's Distinguished People Today is a book for the socially curious — & the socially insecure. Each entry ends with "Style": the mode in which the distinguished person should be addressed on the envelope of a fawning letter. It was well said in some pamphlet "U and Non-U Revisited" that what it set out to do was to give the rules to a game which no longer has any prizes. Does anyone want to know how to address a Marchioness correctly any more? The play Jane Austen's characters in Mansfield Park use to further their emotional & professional lives is not Kotzebue's Das Kind der Liebe but Mrs Inchbald's English version of it. Just as Goethe & Schiller felt "the need to correct" Shakespeare, to remove "Irregularity" & to "improve", so Mrs Inchbald as she admits in her preface to Lovers' Vows, that she feels "its original coarseness for an English stage". She made many changes, particularly to the part of Amelia. "Almost all the dialogue, the characters I have changed; the forward & unfeminine manner in which she announces her affection for her lover, in the original, would have been revolting to an English audience." And yet Mary Crawford expresses embarrassment at having to speak the lines: "How am I ever to look him in the face & say such lines?" Like the German ambivalence over Shakespeare, there is here too a paradoxical impulse to "correct" & "improve" & at the same time to relish the "coarseness" of the foreign original.

Jerrold Scott, The Triads: The Chinese Criminal Fraternity. Sinister brotherhoods & protection rackets. Highly organized crime syndicates now control 90% of the

* Anticipatory of De Sanctis's distinction between "il mondo intuitionale" & "il mondo effettuale" of an artistic work (e.g. La Divina Commedia), wherein dale just the two are also about plucked out of Hong Kong in anticipation of ~~a certain~~ a ruthless takeover of mainland Chinese Communists. Exit-visa & family operation expanded; coolies were unable to find work without Triad backing; the loyalty of police force was bought. Triads forged everything from ~~Rolex~~ passports to Rolex watches, & white collar Triads have moved easily up the glass office blocks as accountants, lawyers & stockbrokers.

William Empson's essay, "Obscurity in Reading", distinguishes itself between the "moral", which is what the author explicitly intends to illustrate & the "tendency" which is the "actual effect" on the reader & which may be at odds with the moral; such a distinction anticipates the the 20th-century "subversive" reading, i.e. reading against the grain & refusing to be guided by the doctrines or normative overt didactic statements or expressed exemplary purpose.*

TLS Sept 14-20, 1990

Deirdre Bair, Simone de Beauvoir, 718 pp. Four years after her death in a cloud of depression, alcohol & Valium, she has not been replaced as France's leading femme savante (it was Mary McCarthy who called her that, with irony & irritation). The Second Sex, which first appeared in 1949 as a pair of unwieldy French volumes of Marxist & existential argumentation. Then, in 1953, lopped, cropped, bowdlerized by a long-suffering American academic, reduced to a single tome, it came out in the United States, went straight on the best-seller list & launched the women's movement in the second half of our century. Her publisher Alfred Knopf, who had complained of her "verbal diarrhoea" & her tendency to pursue ideas in concentric circles, was astonished. Surely no young woman today would take seriously her premise that satisfaction lies in shared marriage, dividing children & solemnly contracting with one's partner a pact of mutual infidelity. Her first

X Sartre once told Olivier Todd that he had always lied to his women.
"All of them?" "All."

rule, the need for women to be self-supporting, seemed to rise out of the mistaken assumption that most working women have any choice in the matter. She had taken it from Virginia Woolf, who had revenue as private means, the ideal basis for independence. De Beauvoir added the still shakier supposition that all work is stimulating & rewarding. Her readers, if they were as lucky as Mme de Beauvoir, might also enjoy the lifelong devotion of one of the most celebrated authors & philosophers of the age. Freed from petty needs such as security in love, they would not object to his numerous affairs & indeed, would offer sympathetic help & advice, keep to his convenience, making sure that he could spend some time with Wanda without Louise's finding out, even breaking into Wanda's hotel room, reading her private journal & reporting what she found. How closely did she heed her own gospel? An intelligent & lucid woman who understands everything except herself. A masochistic militant feminist. She begged Sartre for sympathy, time, for letters, for attention, for conversation; was humbly grateful for one extra two days all to herself when he came home on leave from the army — extra days that his other women knew nothing about. (He shed himself among a bevy of femmelettes, half-educated, infernally dull, sulky, quarrelsome, jealous & demanding. No wonder he envisioned Hell as one man & two women in a locked room.) She thanked him, most humbly, for "kissing her old cheek" — she was 31, & told him he was her "little absolute"; wore like a relic a little white sweater that he had left behind. The most sobering betrayal of the battalions of women who marched behind the banner of the Second Sex must be that she cherished an instinctive sense of inferiority to Sartre. She dropped her own work without a murmur when he wanted help with his; left Nelson Algren, who had given her a wedding-ring to wear, to fly from Chicago back to Paris because Sartre was having trouble

writing a film script; write a number of the things that can be signed. He could have her endorse and sell her to finish the piece, the chapter—whatever it was. She was careful to destroy her notes. It may never be known how many and which of her fiction—in particular, La Nausée—were hers. All that Sartre had to do was to sign his name to a dozen articles for Combat. (Curiously enough, there has for years a persistent rumour that he wrote—or, at least, edited & rewrote, her novels.) Then when she fell in love with another man, Sartre came first. There is no evidence of his ever having given up anything for her: not his time, not his work & most certainly never his time. De Beauvoir attended at a café table, sleeping & dreaming. "I was reminded." "Tante Simone promised eight;"; wrote the historian Mona Ozouf. At 17 Ozouf came across La Deuxième Sexe in a municipal library & was instantly dazzled by the prospect of a future made up of philosophy & about travel & sex & without shame." To enlist as one of Tante Simone's high-flying nieces all one needed to do was to earn one's living, which sounded easy, & you never to depend on anyone. For the rest, one's life could be fashioned like "a small masterpiece". Tante Simone swore that a woman could have both at once: the pleasure of brief adventures & the lasting presence of love at one's side. The distance between de Beauvoir's activities & stated beliefs, or the abyss between her history & Sartre & the public image she encouraged she maintained. Speaking about her parents: 'When I lived at home, my parents & I lived a room right next to theirs, & we heard them ... they must have about 40, 42 times & they were still fucking." The memory disgusted her, because "she held that people in their forties were too old for sex." If she meant it, it reduces the radiant future that adolescents like Mona Ozouf thought were promised to a mere 20-yr span—no better than your average bourgeois marriage. The work is

particularly unexpected when one remembers that de Beauvoir was 39 when she met Nelson Algren & discovered the orgasm. (Her pondering description of the phenomenon, a contribution of the Chicago School to The Second Sex, has all the lyrical freshness of a handbook on electronic typewriters.) In middle age, when she & Algren were apart, she remained faithful to him for 2 years, preferring to wait. Sartre & de Beauvoir each adopted an adult woman. Why an adult woman would want to be adopted by a single parent is not explained. The topic is still a great scandal. French laws on privacy are stricter than those of other European countries. In an open letter sent to President Giscard d'Estaing & published in Le Monde in the late 1970s, a young man, Algerian by name & nationality, a son of Sartre's unadopted daughter, Arlette Elkaim, announced that he had been refused permission to live in France & wondered if the President would clear up the bureaucratic mystery. Le Monde had little to add that M. Sartre had refused to comment on the matter. After Sartre died, in 1980, sporadic tit-for-tat sniping between de Beauvoir & Arlette turned into an open fight for terrain. De Beauvoir published 3 yrs after his death letters he had sent her when he was in the army & later as a prisoner of war. What she was setting out to prove — that he must have loved her — was more important to her than mere technicalities. Although she owned the paper they were written on, the copyright of the letters belonged to Sartre's estate, which means to say to his daughter. Mary McCarthy had already observed that de Beauvoir could not spell the name of an American author even when she had it under her elbow. One wonders what French readers can have made of the authors mentioned in her letter to Sartre from New York: Greenberg, Raab, Philipp, or Rosenberg (Clement Greenberg, Philip Rahv, Wm Phillips, Harold Rosenberg) encountered by her at parties & dismissed as reactionaries or empty-heads or both. In her America Day by Day one reads of "Max Twain", author of Tom

Sartre. The evening she & Koestler had a stumble in fact Nelson York were drunk. Koestler bored important & wanted to try again — homme, oblige — but she refused. Her exact relations with the young students & former students she & Sartre kept in a sprawling emotional commune called "The Family," were a Lesbian version carried out in a spirit of heavy duty towards Sartre. The girls sulked, quarrelled, hated one another & sometimes de Beauvoir too — slapping & pummeling her, even pinching, in anger, "until she drew blood." When she threw them out, they slept on the mat. "The poor bitch", she called her. Her word for another is "faecal", applied to her skin, her smell, even the look on her face. Yet she took them to bed, in her bug-ridden Montparnasse hotel room. "She could live in filth." The girls were children of émigrés, White Russian or Jewish. Sartre & de Beauvoir did not want their incestuous, surrogate family to grow up & seemed determined to keep them always immature. A basic premise of The Second Sex, that women trained to be dependent remain infantile, was continually flouted by herself. Like Sartre, she did all she could to prevent members of The Family from earning money or striking out on their own. Pay their rent for them, pay for holidays & any whatever seemed to be needed to keep them passive, she & Sartre created a colony of drones. At the end of his life, Sartre shuffled around Montparnasse in his slippers because he had no money left for shoes. His considerable earnings were distributed to a brigade of hangers-on, male & female, who are able-bodied & well educated. Once, when one of the young women said she was leaving Paris to take up a teaching post, de Beauvoir protested, "Nobody in our circle earns a living". When Sartre died in a hospital room, in 1980, his daughter was with him, but de Beauvoir & some of his friends held the wake around his bed, passing a bottle of whisky from hand to hand. Dazed with alcohol and Valium, she crawled into the bed. Their sexual relations

had died out. While she was still in her twenties. For years, she had been camping on the fringe of this life with Arlette. It was her final claim. An orderly came into the room & told her that Sartre had gangrenous bedsores, & so she put a bedsheet between them. In 1939, she had told him that she was grateful enough for having lived in the same world at the same time. No price could be too great for such happiness. His death, she said, would be followed immediately by her own. She lived another 6 years & was buried in the same grave with Sartre, with his name above hers. It was he who suggested she write The Second Sex. He liked her to keep busy with projects of her own, she said. "He cheats, he lies, he neglects me, mais c'est mon homme" — love's old sweet song. hélas.

Paul Nizan's Communism irritated — & fascinated — the young Sartre who wrote in his review of The Conspiracy: "Can a Communist write a novel? .... He does not have the right to make himself the accomplice of his characters." He meant that a Communist narrator is privileged to pull his puppet-characters according to a pre-ordained understanding of the universe. But this seems an unfair judgment on The Conspiracy. The late allusions in the novel to the Communists' total victory serve as a yardstick to mock the revolutionary game-playing of Rosenthal & Lefrançois. Young men of upper-middle-class background imagine that the revolution has been accomplished because they leave their families. This does not prevent them from allowing those families to give them money, which serves to finance a magazine called Civil War. The absolute belief in Communism turns out to be fragile. In Rosenthal's seduction of his sister-in-law Catherine, the result is hardly in doubt: the family romance of Pleurnage's easy betrayal shows a determination to believe in class: as a child of the lower middle class he is bound to be a villain.

Bambina Sex, Peachfuzz Psyches, Lolitots — all well-known psychoanalytic
Mazisms. the Social Projection of the middle class. one of the lesser luminaries of
British Biology
972 Like other countries whose women are traditionally suppressed, India deifies its homes.
In many Catholic countries, there is the cult of the Virgin Mary. In India, which
sends in everything to plurality & excess, there are 100,000 which cults built around
the Mother Goddess in one form or another — that fecund figure from whom all
good things flow. Her ample bosom & loins, her enticing curves & curious proportions
make her not merely the ideal mother, but the ideal woman. She's the richest source
of art in India — sculpture, painting, dance & poetry. Around her exists a huge
body of mythology. She is called by several names — Lila, Draupadi, Durga,
Parvati, Lakami, & so on. In each myth, she plays the role of the loyal wife,
unswerving in her devotion to her lord. She is meek, docile, trusting, faithful
& forgiving. Even when spirited & brave, she adheres to the archetype. Willing to
go through fire & water, dishonour & disgrace for his sake. An Indian girl
is brought up from her infancy on these legends. The most obvious reason is that
she is illiterate, untrained & unequipped to earn a living & support herself.
Struga, a small resort town on the shore of a beautiful lake in Yugoslavian
Macedonia, a few miles from the scene of one of the most poetic cruelties of the
Dark Ages. A thousand years ago, the Byzantine Emperor Basil the Bulgar
Slayer, having defeated & captured a Macedonian army of 14,000, blinded them
all — save one in a hundred, left with the sight of one eye to conduct their injured
brethren home to the city of Ohrid.
Lawrence's personality is continuously with us; his art could not function
with it. "It is the teller, whom we have to trust, rather than his tale" (John
Bailey).
972 Dr Wordsworth, Dr Thomas Hardy, Dr T.S. Eliot, Dr André Gide, et al. They are
equally entitled with Samuel Johnson to the honorific — they all received honorary

legally funded with Federal grants & private endowments. The Mark Twain Papers & the Boswell Library already published 29 of his ~~books~~ works with heaven knows how many more to come. The MLA has given the Associat-ion's official seal of approval

doctoral degrees from Oxford University. And like him, they declined to let this handle themselves. Johnson derided Boswell for inflicting it on him, & had some scathing things to say in his Journey to the Western Islands about the proliferation of doctorates (2 yrs before Oxford got around to conferring one on Johnson, it had one Stroop awarded 168, mostly to long-forgotten political hangers-on of its chancellor, the Prime Minister, Lord North). But Boswell triumphed in the end: after Johnson's death, he promoted all the "Misters" in the MS of his Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides (which Johnson had read & approved) to "Doctors".[8]

Salman Rushdie: "To respect the sacred is to be paralyzed by it. The idea tends to turn other ideas — Uncertainty, Progress, Change — into Crime". Crime is what he was accused of & he has been in hiding in fear of his life. The West has two fixed notions about India: a romantic land full of holy men, palaces & elephants; and a land of horror, of poverty & squalor, hunger & disease. Each is only a half-truth.

Wittgenstein: "Darwin's theory has no more to do with philosophy than any other hypothesis in natural science"

TLS, Sept. 21-27, 1990

Throughout his career, Mark Twain botched & cobbled. In 1882, racing to meet the deadline on Life on the Mississippi, he boasted to W. D. Howells that he managed to churn out 7,500 words a day, having resorted to the old hack's expedient of copying out large chunks from other people's books. Few things, as Puddnhead observed, are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example. This building collection of the letters sets standards of diligence that will cause future editors of writers' letters to weep. The research is punctilious — and unbridled. Criticism has cut Twain down to size as the author of one shining masterpiece or at best a

8 It is clear from Fanny Burney's diary that Mrs Thrale spoke of it to him as "Dr" Johnson, & evidently this was the Jewish Rabbi Tribes, he had at his left hand as he knows as "Dr" Long before

a dog's body reporter-printer. The shelf-life of a major issue is about 18 months. Opinion is a capricious disease of the head & the heart & alternates like red & black in roulette. Who runs Britain? Not Gods & the Good on public bodies.

y short stories & a pile y hot boilers. From 1866 onwards, he was a celebrity on a scale unprecedented in the history y American letters. He was largely famous for being famous. For Olivia Langdon, he abandoned drink, spirits & even put giving up smoking on his future agenda. For Livy, he plagued through the sermons y Henry Ward Beecher, made a point y attending church socials, read the Psalms. His character in his letters to her is a deadly earnest Christian pilgrim embarked on the stony road to salvation. All the rejected pieces y his childhood were called back into service; & some y his predestination showed, perhaps, have made Livy smell a rat. He presented her with the intriguing possibility y rescuing a soul otherwise doomed to perdition. When she cooled, he slid back into sin; when she warmed up, he doubled his quota y sermons & churchgoing. To his friend Joseph Twichell: "I am in London, bound to devote her grave, platonic, pickled dissertations as love letters..."

Kim Philby was never happier than when receiving his edition y Orwell, his airmail copies y The Times or his consignment y cat-food from Fortnum & Mason. James Cameron was given to saying that he himself was conservative about everything except politics. Orwell, in a series y perceptive comments on Greene, always claimed to detect a devout Catholic reactionary behind the experimentor. In a culmination on Shakespeare in 1969, Greene said: "The writer should always be ready to change sides at the drop y a hat. He stands for the victorious, & the victim change". In a report from Allende's Chile in 1972: "I suppose pessimism is the dreadful privilege y an outsider with a return ticket." He preposterously attacked Shakespeare for being insufficiently Catholic: "How like a Jesuit Jacksum Bore the Fault had been." "If only Shakespeare had shared Southwell's disloyalty, we could have loved him better as a man." He sympathized in general with the French occupation y Vietnam — la mission civilisatrice. In a tee-curling

the Oxford doctorate arrived. Of my earlier Dublin one (Ld. D.) which was cited in the certificate y freedom y Aberdeen. With me now in his hat walking through the street, after they shouted "Dr Johnson!" in the town hall

A Tokerman a few weeks later he learned from reading Boswell's journal that he intended to write the Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.; it provided Boswell many hopeful details (Sept. 21-7, p 1001)

embarrassing address to Gorbachev, delivered in Moscow in 1987: "There is no division in our thoughts between Catholics—Romantic Catholics—& Communists."

The Collège International des Traducteurs Littéraires in Arles occupies a wing of the old Hôtel Dieu, now called l'Espace Van Gogh, which also houses a "médiathèque", a municipal archive & various studios & exhibition rooms. One of the rules set out by the London Detection Club (founded in 1928) is: "It is possible to play fair with foul play." J. D. Carr is dubbed in "the Houdini of Whodunits".

TLS, Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 1990

Mircea Eliade's sense of his own possible monumentality. Was it not a malevolent "campaign against me" which eliminated him "from among the favorites for the Nobel Prize" (Diary entry, July 23, 1979)? There were not merely stellar name-lectures he had not delivered to packed houses. The post-war flood of Germany torn to three massive tomes. The *opera omnia* in Romanian, French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian and English-language editions. Among the titles were those he could reasonably expect to be classics: *The Myth of Eternal Return* (1949, 1954); *Shamanism* (1951, 1964); *Patterns in Comparative Religion* (1958). Following the death of his first wife & the Soret Peizani of Romania, Eliade took refuge in Paris. For a time, survival was from hand to mouth. "Whatever may happen, there is always a cave in Himalaya for me." He thought that Freud's "explanation of religious experiences & other spiritual activities are purely & simply inept." He was drawn to Jung, yet wary. The University of Chicago, that great centre of Oriental & Near Eastern learning, & American anthropology, were to be his headquarters from 1956 onwards. His diaries cascade with names—was there anyone of lustre on the international circuit whom Eliade did not know? A handful of exiled Romanian refugees report to him on the systematic bestialities to which religious believers are subjected in Ceaușescu's

to stare-chambers. He is easily alert to ~~very watchful of~~ the live vestiges of the archaic, the primal in modern life, particularly in the America of the flower-children, of the hippies, of the ecologists & addicts. He died in 1986. His memory forms will attend on Library & institute shelves in something of the dusty, undisturbed majesty that attends upon those of Frazer, of Max Müller, of Kerényi & other encyclopedists of the mythical (shades of Middlemarch). Surrounded, as he was in Chicago, by Jewish colleagues & students, he scarcely refers to Judaism in his diaries. In Feb. 1976 Eliade is receiving an honorary doctorate at the Sorbonne. Have the charges of "fascism" buried & forgotten him cropped up again? There are grave delays, in the Autumn of 1982, over the Suhrkamp edition of the collected works & the Gedächtnisschrift: could it be that such consecrations might "reopen the old matter of my 'fascism'"? In 1989 serious papers on the Continent published partly extensive reports to the effect that Eliade was a full supporter of the infamous Romanian Iron Guard & that his earlier journalism, hitherto suppressed, contained virulently racist & anti-Jewish pronouncements. These new revelations were brought into relation with those on Paul de Man & above all, on Heidegger. Eliade acted as cultural attaché for the Romanian regime between 1940 & the 1945. There may have been a veiled key to darkness in the life & work of this learned & eloquent teller of tales.

In Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism (1941) & Ursprünge und Anfänge der Kabbalah (1962) Gershom Scholem demonstrated that far from marginal, the Cabbala occupied a pivotal place in Jewish theology. The reflexion of his close friend Walter Benjamin depended on a kindred Cabbalistic method.

Vichy France was the only territory not occupied by Germans (until Nov. 1942) from which Jews were deported during the Second World War. France's enthusiastic contribution to the extermination of European Jews, is

Britain's crime. The "resistance" credentials of Sartre & others are flimsy.
Even as the ageing Duke of Windsor, Edward VIII remained an immature, confused
man for whom fascism had become a way of life & masochism the way of love.
From the moment of his birth he was trapped by the false mystique that surrounded
the royal family. The formal investiture of a Prince of Wales can now be recog-
nised as the earliest step in the headlong descent of the British Royal Family
into their role of chief celebrities in the Great Britain National Theme Park. When
still (some) years he was forced to start memorizing names & faces after join-
ing a room with 50 people in it, he was cross-examined on the identity of everyone
whom he had met. His sycophantic exaggeration of his abilities & absurdly uncertain
predictions about future made to his parents show counter-shift in its most
unattractive light. He erupted in letter written shortly after was declared in 1914:
"...enough about my rotten self, for I am a most vile specimen of humanity." He
was a heavy drinker, even a problem drinker. He was a home-loving body. His speed
& determination with which he moved after his accession in 1936 to sell the
royal houses at Balmoral & Sandringham betrayed his resentment of the
stifled vagueness that he had endured there although it also reflected Wallis
Simpson's determination to turn all the royal assets they could touch into cash.
He was an accomplished philanderer: as his public life became more & more
hateful to him, his private life became increasingly the only existence that seemed
real to him. He always dreaded the responsibilities of kingship & long doubted his
fitness for it. He had all his years surrounded by deferential courtiers & favour-
ing women, but Wallis seemed to despise him — however much she coveted his money.
Her harsh & even sadistic excitement at him appealed to his "usual perversion of
self-abasement". He moped it & begged for more. His political fantasies that

Carlo Lapucci, Dizionario dei modi di dire della lingua italiana, Mitten Milan. Vallardi. L32.000. 518 pp. Le modo di dire is different from the Base fatta o dei detti (cliché); e.g. Dorare la gallina dalle uova d'oro (to find the goose that lays golden eggs) is different from trovare un capello in una casa a caccia di (to find a hair in a house full of) la gallina have surrounded the House of Windsor have corrupted everyone the French.

Guy Thuillier & Jean Tulard, Les Écoles historiques. A bad state of affairs for the "Annales des annales". During the past 3 or 4 decades, the task of these historians, both in Paris & in Princeton, has been to lead, & to conceive those vast historical surveys (Conjonctures) that would give an edge to their equally original micro-social statements on quotidian life. The annalistes beyond sciences & Mentalités to idéologie. They did not care about politics. A third force, at once more flexible. The history of politics was a structuring element of Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie & Georges Duby's Histoire de France of 1987. But as the interests of the annalistes broadened, as did the collective existence of these historians as a single school became more tenuous. Michelle Vovelle, for example, is first & foremost the loyal heir ("S'il n'en reste qu'un, je serai celui-là!") of a long & cherished Marxist tradition. Annalisme & Marxism were not necessarily antithetical: on television, Fernand Braudel once proclaimed himself a Marxist. But ordinarily annalistes are ideological refugees of a kind. As Marxism has faded, so has its ennemi intime, annalisme.

Julia Kristeva has inherited the intellectual throne left vacant by the death of Simone de Beauvoir. Arriving in Paris from Bulgaria in 1965 to study linguistics, she quickly became a theorist of the avant-garde journal Tel Quel & married its editor, the novelist Philippe Sollers. She established herself as one of the most versatile champions of the international post-structuralist circuit. She has become a practising psychoanalyst since 1979. Les Samouraïs is inspired by Beauvoir's prize-winning Les Mandarins (1954). The samouraïs are intellectual warriors for whom living is a martial art. One can easily guess the identities of such characters as the philosopher-guru Saïda, inventor of the theory of "contestation";

the sinister historian Ackerman, author of books on madness, sexuality, etc.; the psychoanalyst cult hero Lauzun, whose seminars are the toast of Paris; the Marxist philosopher Wurst, who goes mad & strangles his wife, etc. A trip to China (the Tel Quel group made the pilgrimage in 1974) is the novel's thematic centre & turning point.

TLS, Oct 5-11, 1990

Roman Jakobson said that the Czechs have 3 philosophers, Comenius, Masaryk & Jan Patočka. This seems to be me to be clear fair to Husserl, who was as much a Moravian as a Jew. Patočka was the last major representative of a central European tradition of thought, begun by Bolzano, & continuing through Brentano (teacher alike of Masaryk & Husserl), Meinong, & Husserl himself to Patočka & Heidegger. This tradition was inextricably bound up with the German language, & Patočka wrote spontaneously in German. Many people at home in both languages find his German more readable than his Czech. He practised a kind of monastic retreat from the horrors of the surrounding world. Although he survived the Nazi period, he was confined by the Communists to academic exiles, & finally excluded from the university altogether. To the surprise of many, he put himself forward as one of the first spokesmen of Charter 77, consequently dying in his 77th year, after a brutal interrogation from the Secret Police.

The Soviet Union today stands on the brink of collapse & chaos. Even in Moscow, there are shortages of bread, tobacco & Vodka, the 3 staple items of the Russian working diet. Lawlessness & corruption are increasing, as the central State powers fragments, & the authorities lose their grip.

Ever since Bridget Jones's Diary in 1977, Kingsley Amis's fiction has been cataloguing the ignominies of ageing. One hopes, reserved for the author who is getting on,

the facts & phenomena in sundry chic esoterica

has as yet escaped his notice: he~~s~~ made the subject of embarrassed "celebratory" essays. Amis is composed admiringly to figures he is known to loathe, e.g. Pritchett in his poem about "the so shitty" & Woody Allen at "the right of" whom Amis thought of "resigning from the human race." The transatlantic accolades seem distinctly oblivious to Amis's jeers about American writers & academics. Inconsistency rarely impedes Amis when he's in full denunciatory flow. His obsession with widespread cultural & social deterioration gradually degenerates into the rather routine pose of all-occasions Jeremiah. Contemporary literature is worthless as a subject-area. Knee-jerk splutterings about "trendies," accompanied by stark lack of approval for old-fashioned attitudes ("I'm quite right too") make his persona similar to that of the figures he stigmatizes as "the chaps you make sure of avoiding in the pub")

Frances Partridge, Hanging On: Diaries 1960-3. Her clear-eyed observation of the emotional & intellectual gyrations of her Bloomsbury intimates, Ralph Partridge's sudden death from a heart attack. She prefers "the shadow of death." The decline into senility of Clive Bell, with false teeth, unzipped flies & baby language; Gerald Brenan's establishment in Spain, where the lavatories smelled, the food was revolting, & Hetty, his hippy girlfriend, had an "oblong suet coloured face" surrounded by unbrushed red-dyed hair."

Brecht's poem "Lied von der belebenden (stimulating) Wirkung des Geldes." "Wie sie gilt das Geld auf dieser Erden / Und doch ist sie, wenn es mangelt, kalt / Und die Kunst sehr lasterlich werden / Plötzlich durch des Geldes Gewalt." (People keep on saying Cash is so cold / Yet this World's a cold place if you're Short. / Not at once (or can afford it) / And have ample Cash Support) (not tr. for "lasterlich" — hospitals) (not tr. for "Gewalt")

Günter Kunert, Fremd Daheim (A Stranger at Home). One poem. "Zitate,

Zitate. Wozu die Lippen überhaupt öffnen? Lenin hat gesagt. Bereits Marx erklärte. Schon Goethe meinte! Und Gott selbst sprach. Im Anfang war das Wort." Luther puts conclude: "Die Natur hat Homo sapiens die Chance eingeräumt Mensch zu werden und Mensch zu bleiben."
The Times's Nannyish approach: "We know what's good for you better than you do." The Lord Chamberlain's Office sent a Mr Titmarsh to the Windmill Theatre to judge whether nipples could be seen behind the layers of gauze or whether the nude girls were moving too much.
I would have thought no less of him if he had won the prize. Consider the following lists: 1. Proust, Joyce, Kafka, Conrad, Henry James, Lawrence, Nabokov, Borges. 2. Henrik Pontoppidan, Pearl Buck, Grazia Deledda, Sigrid Undset, Frans E. Sillanpää, Karl Gjellerup, Verner von Heidenstam, Harry Martinson. The first list includes those who might have won the Nobel Prize for literature but did not. The second list—well, it includes those you'd expect to esteem the third list, consisting of Leo Tolstoy, J.-P. Sartre & Boris Pasternak. These are those who, from an admixed mixture of motives & pressures, declined what Yeats called "the Academy of Sweden." Boris Vian once cheerily said that "not getting the Nobel Prize is a major Swedish cottage industry", while Christopher Hitchens in 1979 that he would still grab it if it were offered because "I feel greedy." The Nobel stipulations, based on the last will & testament of a conscience-stricken munitions manufacturer ("... the most outstanding work of an idealistic tendency") are no longer observed. In his book The Image: A guide to pseudo-events in America, Daniel Boorstin sarcastically proposed a class of the famous whose, quite simply, "well-known for being well-known." This idea has reached its apotheosis in the present age of the prize racket. In his recent memoir, Denis Healey tells us that his wife Edna, a member of the judges' panel

the Booker Prize in 1986, learned more about sex in her Autumn of intense passion
really than she had in 40 years of wedded bliss with him. Hemingway said that the
Nobel is awarded only to those who need no further exposure or encouragement: "You
finally scramble ashore & the bastards hit you over the head with a lifebelt."
A literary award almost corresponds to the Order of the Garter as commended by
Lord Melbourne: "No damned merit about it". Increasingly, the chief award is the
best-seller list, & prizes are judged by their impact on it.

Christophe Charle, Naissance des "intellectuels", 1880-1900. Only in France is the
status of intellectual so recognized & patented. On Jan. 14, 1898, the day following
the publication of Zola's "J'accuse" in L'Aurore, that same paper published
a brief petition that quickly became known as the "Manifeste des Intellectuels."
Leading the list of signatures were those of Zola & Anatole France, followed by
other less famous writers (e.g. Marcel Proust), & then a number of professors &
students. What struck the readers was the large participation of universitaires
(which at the time meant teachers in secondary as well as higher education, i.e. State
functionaries) who took up a stance of public opposition to the army, the judiciary
& the ruling political class. If celebrated novelists signed first, the troops
behind them, & the organizers of the Dreyfusard camp, were largely universitaires.
The term probably originated as a label of opprobrium — Maurice Barrès was
particularly fond of using it in this way. Long before the Dreyfus Affair, there were
always "men of letters" who took on the role of public conscience, e.g. Voltaire,
Hugo, & others. But the emergence of a self-conscious intellectual caste corresponded
with the increase in importance of the secondary & University education & the growth
of the number of students & professors. More & more French define themselves in relation
to a certain level of formal education. The new recruits of this expansionist phase of

the universités formed that the high social place accorded to the savant & the recognized worker had been devalued by sheer numbers. The anti-Dreyfusards largely belonged to "the elite": More than half of the members of the Académie Française, the Société des Gens de Lettres, & such by then established painters as Degas & Renoir, they were older & more established. Jean Jaurès perceived this distinction in his article "La classe intellectuelle" in which he examined the status of "reactionary intellectuals". The most famous post-Second-World-War declarations of the French intellectuals, the "Manifeste des 121", proclaiming the right to disobedience in the Algerian War. This manifesto had the distinction of not seeing the light of print when issued: when Vérité-Liberté tried to run it, the paper was seized by the police & its editor indicted for inciting soldiers to desertion, & then Les Temps modernes appeared with two blank pages: its printer had refused to compose the manifesto. The era of electronic media tends to turn intellectuals into experts, called on for 30 seconds' worth of commentary in their "field". A decade ago, Jean-François Lyotard argued in La Condition postmoderne that the modern university is expected to produce "compétences" rather than "ideals": so many doctors, engineers, technicians, administrators.

TLS, Oct 12-18, 1990

Frank McLynn, Burton. A few days after his death, his widow, Isabel, set to work burning the manuscript that he had believed to be his masterpiece, a complete version of The Scented Garden. She also destroyed her husband's diaries after making use of them in her 2-vol. hagiographic Life (1893). Burton became a rabid antisemite. His lack of a coherent prose style makes his translation of the Arabian Nights almost unreadable. His choice of bizarre & archaic words was arose out of his need to conceal his ~~need to conceal~~ dependence on John Payne's earlier translation. His quest for alternatives to Payne's vocabulary ("stone-lore" for "science of the stars", "calligraphy" for "writing", etc.) was systematic & at times desperate.

a cultural-~~shaft~~ straddling blizzard like Rushdie

Naomi Wolf, The Beauty Myth. In the notepad Deborah [Naomi's mother] recorded the agonies her diet, ex-guilt that engulfed her. When she broke it with food binges. Deborah martyred herself at family meals, had tantrums every time she weighed herself, plastered the refrigerator with self-admonishing photographs of her shape. By the age of 13 the anorexic Naomi was existing on the calorie equivalent of famine victims. Anorexia is a "political damage" done to women. A teeny girl taken acid into the face of a child of three & cute dimples she was jealous. In the 1960s, "eating disorders rose exponentially & cosmetic surgery became the fastest growing medical specialty." Discrimination against women on grounds of their appearance. Her account of cosmetic surgery—techniques such as stomach stapling, liposuction, rhinoplasty, silicone implants, intestinal bypass surgery—is a horrifying tale of women's mutilation & self-loathing & male complicity & violence. "A co-ed half full of anorexic women."

The modern movement in literature was born & largely raised in little magazines, the laboratory of modernism. The Little Review was founded by Margaret Anderson in Chicago in 1914 & dominated by Ezra Pound. Rémy de Gourmont's bibliography Les Petites Revues (1900) shows that throughout their careers, neither Villiers, nor Verlaine, nor Mallarmé, nor Laforgue ever published their works in establishment periodicals. The Pre-Raphaelite The Germ (1850) is the origin of the English-language little magazine. Anthony Burgess's sneer: "The Koran is no literary masterpiece. The Bible is."

Philip Kerr, ed. The Penguin Book of Lies. Deception has a survival value in the animal & plant kingdoms: vanity, dishonesty, reason, the dumb beasts & the dumbe, vegetables still manage by gesture, a squeak, colour, pattern, or stink to communicate to the world: I'm not here, I'm bedded, I'm bad to eat, etc. Eve lied about apples, Jacob about his skin, Abraham about his exact relations

*"Allmählich hat sich mir herausgestellt, was jede große Philosophie bisher war: nämlich das Selbstbekenntnis ihres Urhebers und eine Art unfreiwilliger und unmerkter Memoiren, insgleichen, daß die moralischen (oder unmoralischen) Absichten in jeder Philosophie den eigentlichen Lebenskeim ausmachten, aus dem jedesmal die ganze Pflanze gewachsen ist." Genesis 18:12 Sarah. How God felt about this is partly made clear by a bizarre story in I Kings 14. Some British war propagandist hit upon the story that the Germans made soap from corpses. Augustine defines 8 kinds of lie & forbids them all. The Talmud permits lying for modesty or decency. A certain Bartolomaeo Ingavenzole (Isalto lying) had no copy of his book apparently survived the burning. P. H. Gosse permitted no fiction in his house, but his theory of the origin of fossils amounted, in his son's words to "God inserting a gigantic lie in the rocks"; he once wrote to an opponent apologising for having signed an earlier letter "Your obedient servant" when he wasn't. Mundus vult decipi: we all want to be told lies. Likewise we are all liars.

TLS, Oct. 19-25, 1990

"Every great philosophy", Nietzsche wrote in Beyond Good & Evil, "has so far been the self-confession of its originator, a kind of unintentional, unnoticed memoirs!" *Philosophers may have supposed themselves discovering, reporting, revealing the deep truths of the real world. Even in fact, they will have been expressing whatever powerful experience it was whose disguised representation is misunderstood as metaphysical revelation. Platonic forms, Aristotelian entelechies, Kantian noumena, Schopenhauer's world-as-will, the being & the nothingness of the Existentialists, had the precise cognitive weight of cats, sighs & giggles. For Wittgenstein, Ray Monk writes in Ludwig Wittgenstein: The Duty of Genius, "all philosophy, in so far as it is pursued honestly & decently, begins with a confession." The defining effort of the true philosopher is less to struggle with the truth (precluded in any case), but rather against being false to oneself. "The meaning of life, i.e. the meaning of the world, we can call God"; "To pray is to think about the meaning of life" (Tractatus). At first he was believed a kindred spirit by the members of the Vienna Circle. Rudolph von Gut und Böse, I.6. Werke, hrsg K. Schlechta, Bd II, S.571).

Carnap: "I had vaguely believed that his attitude toward metaphysics was similar to ours. I had not paid sufficient attention to the statements in his book about the mystical." Wittgenstein would turn his back on the Positivists when they used poetry rather than discuss the language of science & the Uber windung der Metaphysik. What he took the function of a Zen master, a performative instruction in truths that could not be uttered. His "philosophy" was meant as a help for those in whom the question emerged out of their own experience, & as a key to stop philosophizing, a means to stench speculation: "the philosophical problems should completely disappear." When in the '20s, Russell wanted to establish with him a World Organization for Peace & Freedom, Wittgenstein rebuked him scornfully. Had Russell said to him: "Well I suppose you would rather establish a World Organization for War & Slavery," to which Wittgenstein passionately assented: "Yes, rather! Rather that!" His relationships with those young men were physical, but they were also animated by love, on which he wrote movingly: "Love, that is the pearl of great price that one holds to one's heart, that one would exchange for riches..."

Naomi Mitchison: "Friendship can be made quickest & best in bed."

Longevity is the surest way to the British public's heart. Lord Denning's favourite little joke is that he had "all the Christian virtues save resignation." Loved sometimes for his humour & for the disclosure that it was his deliberate practice to remain on the bench longer than anyone else before him. If one better, he all but spelled out, that innocent men should not in jail than that the probity of the police should be called in question. Let the Rule [illegible] be brought into disrepute. He was the establishment's man after all. The law is made, not for people, but for lawyers.

The British Empire has existed to bring "outdoor relief" (John Bright's phrase) to the aristocracy, e.g. the Governors-General in the colonies. "Decorative impotence".

"I am the most disobeyed man in history", Mussolini is said to have confessed. Fascism's failure to crack the endemic indiscipline of Italian political culture explains in part why Italy saved its soul by saving Jews. Denmark, though conquered, defied Germany & rescued its Jews. All the vices of Italian political life—disorder, disobedience, nonchalance, corruption—favoured those who wanted the State not to act. The "matrix of secondary vices" in Italian public life made possible the "primary virtue" of saving human life. In contrast, Germany's political culture was pervaded by "secondary virtues"—efficiency, duty, obedience, incorruptibility—which made men commit mass murder. As the elder Comte Louis-Philippe's Prefect of Police was famous for his speedy incompetence. On a call on a prominent politician he left a note saying "Je suis venu en personne".

John Wain, ed, The Faber Book of Blue Verse. "Blue" is a slippery term, constantly rubbing up against its neighbours "sexy", "erotic", "bawdy" etc.

TLS, Oct. 26–Nov. 1, 1990

Anthony Burgess is a writer about whose life one knows a lot—even without benefit of autobiography. He divulges aspects of his private life & has always been good for the indiscreet newspaper interview. He simply leaks more of himself than other writers. He had a death sentence pronounced on him in 1960, when a brain specialist diagnosed a tumour. With a year to live he wrote 5 Dantean novels to support his future widow. The tumour proved to be non-existent. But the die was cast & Burgess was novelist for the rest of his time. Under a pseudonym, Burgess reviewed one

passionate about the lives of the great.
prodigate-philistines who merely exist to live.

His novels written under another pseudonym. He reminisced about the death of his first wife from Cirrhosis brought on by drinking. He was offered & refused Lionel Trilling's vacated chair at Columbia. In 1980 he did an interview with his co-religionist Graham Greene, for the Observer. It led to public quarrels when the older novelist accused Burgess of putting words in his mouth that he had rather prudently to look up in the dictionary. His first wife Lynne drank companionably till the point of overdose & physical collapse. She taunted Burgess with her infidelities, precipitating impotence within marriage & his tit-for-tat adulteries outside. She attempted suicide time & again. He drank gin as copiously as she smoked 80 cigarettes a day. Burgess was racked with guilt: "I had always persuaded her to drink & she had drunk with me, ignoring the fact that Women's lives are not men's. At the beginning of our relationship she had hated the pubs; I taught her to love them". In one of his casual adulteries in 1964 he had made love to a young Italian studying at Leicester, who promptly disappeared from his life. She had married & had born a little child, Andrea. Burgess was the father. Liana Macellari eventually became Burgess's second wife. He feels that he has done badly by his now grown-up son, dragged as he was across all of Europe & America without an adequate education. He was involved in a very nasty car incident on the road to ~~Monte~~ Nice, & his left leg & thigh were converted to a bag of scrabble pieces; he attempted suicide. "It is never the object of confession, at least in the Catholic tradition, to present oneself as a likeable character. One seeks not admiration but forgiveness".

A biography of Proust is rather un Proustian thing. Against Sainte-Beuve's view, Proust declared a work of art to be a product of a different self from the one we manifest in our habits, our social life & our vices. Baudelaire unworthily

undermined his health. Both medicines & over-paid casual partners in his homosexual encounters.

During the autumn of 1918, as the Great War moved towards its end, epidemic influenza (the Spanish flu) swept the globe. Nation after nation watched the awesome power of biological forces, the flu claimed even more lives than had the combat. Typically, flu is most dangerous for the very young & very old, but unlike most flu epidemics, the Spanish flu took an usually high toll among young adults, between the ages of 20 & 30. Inoculation proved useless.

TLS, Nov. 2-8, 1990

Richard Crossman's relationship with power was a clear case of the unspeakable in hot pursuit of the unattainable. Labour politics was a conversion practical means of being disagreeable & ambitious at the same time. Self-seeking to a fault, he was lucky that Clement Attlee had known him from the childhood & had more sense than to offer him a job. The posthumous publication of his Cabinet diary in 1975 against the wishes of the Cabinet Office had more impact on the condition than anything he had done in life. He had made it a point of honour to do the dishonourable thing. He went up to Oxford as a well-formed public-school thug with an aptitude for classical scholarship. No more loyal to ideas than to people, he gave very public hostages to fortune. "Treat lesser men who were for their climbing to power and should be dropped when they had achieved their end". A lifetime of intriguing & opportunistic plotting had brought him to a position of power almost as great as he had ever coveted. But brutally sacked from Wilson's Cabinet by Barbara Castle as Minister for Housing & Local Government, he did not know what to do with power. Reading the Complete Lists of Ministers of Her Majesty's Government will very soon become an exercise in "Who? Who?" letter from Who's Who. Tommy Beaver certified "the death of the Labour Party", which "believes in nothing any more,

excess staying in power." Shirley Williams & David Owen are both "right-wing" people under the agreeable skin. She must stop, but maybe some alarm bells needed to sound. Denis Healy: "the people who have this stuff about freedom of information know nothing about government whatever." Michael Foot had a fit of unbelievable fury at the suggestion of "open government." On Sept. 12, 1978 Benn wrote a letter to Merlyn Rees, then Home Secretary, formally inquiring whether his telephone had been tapped. After a month had not got the reply, he wrote again, finally pricing out the response that he could not be told "that there had been the practice & he was not prepared to vary it." Home Secretaries have been kept informed by the security services [illegible] at least the 1840s (e.g. mail interception).

Noel Annan, Our Age. The University in question had to be Oxford or Cambridge, the provincial universities, though doubtless worthy institutions, were not of the elite. Women were accepted as honorary members provided they were socially high-powered & ready to act as "life-enhancers" to the poets, writers, artists & dons. A group that centred around Bloomsbury & Cambridge. What Roy Jenkins called "permissive revolution" was carried by the head & the food in the revision of social custom. They did not expect young people to create a revolution from below through the use of pot & the pill, nor did they bargain for gay liberation & the Women's Movement. The liberal elite were overtaken by events beyond their control in the transition of the permissive society. Market forces, i.e. pressures from business & the City, were more important than Bloomsbury or Roy Jenkins.

R. A. Butler's The Art of the Possible takes its title from the Minister's slogan of the "Anyhow," "The shadowy "Organization" behind which the Communist Party & Kremlin hid its true identity until Sept. 1977: "We must be most completely in

Ellen Terry

Brigker because it has as many eyes as a pineapple & cannot make me take."
Claire Tomalin, The Invisible Woman. Being loved by a great writer usually turns out to be less flattering to a woman than it may have seemed at first. Ellen in the long run, we're only interested in her because he was. Nor can she settle for anonymity: her association with celebrity keeps her involuntarily on show, although we can't hear what she says. A mention in a letter from Thackeray's daughter of Dickens walking on Hampstead Heath with "Miss Whatever the actress's name" becomes a picture of "Dickens striding along, with a pretty, young & pleasantly energetic companion at his side, eagerly listening, eagerly agreeing." Nelly died in 1913, theoretically at 65, but in fact 10 years older. In the 1920s her middling son Geoffrey asked Sir Henry Dickens outright if it was true that his mother had been Dickens's mistress. Sir Henry's confirmation was a profound shock, & he never discussed the matter publicly again before his death in 1959.

TLS Nov 9-15, 1990

John Sutherland, Mrs Humphry Ward. Virginia Woolf said that reading her was like eating flu, Lytton Strachey called her "that shapeless mass of meaningless flesh—all dull & bookish & misconceived," Arnold Bennett in Books & Persons excitedly imagined her heroine being gang-raped by an entire army. When H.G. Wells made love to Elizabeth von Arnim, her naked buttocks were pressed against a copy of Mary Ward's Times attack on Rebecca West. Her royalties for her popular three-decker novels paid for the building of a series of new villas at Hasmere & enlarged the population of her servants' hall. The caption to Max Beerbohm's 1904 caricature runs: "Mr Matthew Arnold. To him Miss Mary Augusta his niece: 'Why, Uncle Matthew, oh Why will not you be always really serious?'" Even after her sterling efforts at Oxford to

establishment equivalent to Newnham at Somerville, she shrank from sending either of her daughters to the College & broke with all her colleagues over the suffrage issue. The status of Robert Elsmere as a runaway (7 editions in 4 months) was confirmed nevertheless by a tremendous 10,000-word denunciation by Gladstone entitled "Robert Elsmere & the Battle of Belief", his riposte to a stirring encounter with the novelist at Oxford. Her Hardy recession in the approved manner of Minor Gentry, both hunting, golf & tennis parties, 8 servants, a chauffeur-gardener, annual jaunts to the Continent. "Was she happy?" We could write her biography as a 67-year medical case report or an anthology of the age's female invalidisms".

Of the prolific Mrs Margaret Oliphant, Virginia Woolf says: "She sold her brain... prostituted her culture & enslaved her intellectual liberty in order to earn her living & educate her children." She exempts Mrs Oliphant's Autobiography from her general censure as "a most genuine & indeed moving piece." "George Eliot & George Sand make me half inclined to cry over my poor little unappreciated self... I do feel very small, very obscure, pelt like them..." "I don't think I have ever had two hours undisturbed... during my whole literary life." Her most memorable achievements, the supernatural novel A Beleaguered City & the two short stories "The Open Door" & "The Library Window".

Standard English, for some reason, arouses horrid passions. Some have pointed out that Hat is Feminine & it is seen as female: It is "prim", that its "purity" is always under threat, if not "assault", by those who wish to corrupt it. It is a system of 11 monophthongs & 20 vowel-phonemes. These, in speech, pick out essence. I hate it when effete people appear on the television & talk about the English personality

"fea-fear", which I would call "fright(r)-fear(r)". Still, though I don't like the pronunciation, there is nothing wrong with the sound. H. C. Wyld, who should have known better, insisted that the only "a" of Standard ix to do the "-ith", "-ious", has an innate "solidity & dignity" absent from the common Northern "ee". Does that mean that the language would be better-off if the opposite of "thin" was "fat"?

Peter Heath, <u>Shakespeare's Theobald & the Editing of Shakespeare</u>. Far from pilloring him, Warburton's idea, Theobald gave the "complete man of education in the Occasional Critic"; it is Warburton who emerges as the one shamelessly conceal[ing] his debts from Theobald. It is Pope & Warburton who should feel the dunce's cap a-gog fit.

Two Swiss scholars recently produced a <u>Dictionnaire des mots intrus</u>, who contains some nine items to fill up supposed gaps in the French language, such as <u>bibliocaisse</u> for a bookcase and <u>mésopolème</u> for "between the wars" or "inter-bellum". Schäfer's <u>Trésor de la langue française</u> shows that <u>Führer</u> had been used more than 3 centuries before he came to use it for Hitler. A bit "quite a case of intercating".

An old Italian joke has it that "in Britain the situation is serious, but not desperate. In Italy, the situation is desperate, but not serious"

<u>TLS</u>, Sept. 16-22, 1990

Bismarck: "The stream of time flows inexorably along. By plunging my hand into it, I am merely doing my duty. I do not expect thereby to change its course." No one with a will to power acts as Bismarck does believes in an inexorable stream of time. Only in the 1860s did the historical image of Bismarck recant. A new generation of historians, hoping to come to terms with the Nazi catastrophe, began

"Military Observatory" always ends with economic straight.
Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree was a two-ménage man in the Roger Ackerley style.
this case of jerrying a bridge
to see in him a harbinger of national disaster rather than the architect of national greatness. His success lies in his flexibility, his ability to keep his options open without committing himself until he was certain which was the most favourable course of action. Bismarck himself advised keeping "two irons in the fire."
He never accepted the legitimacy of domestic conflict, never understood the motives of his opponents in whom he could see nothing but disloyalty, ingratitude or malice. The mobilization of mass movements transformed participatory politics.
H. M. Enzensberger: "Conviction will turn any good cause into a bad one. It is a luxury which can no longer afford."
1227 Nabokov made a vigorous defence of his privacy: "I hate tampering with the decent lives of great writers & I hate Tom-peeping over the fence of these lives—I hate the vulgarity of 'human interest'!. & no biography will ever catch a glimpse of my private life." He described the possibilities of literary biography as "a kind of double paper-chase: first the biographer pursues his quarry through letters & diaries, & across the tops of conjecture, & then a nine authority pursues the muddy biographer." Brian Boyd's work is really because Andrew Field's work needs not to be complemented or supplemented, but bypassed. "Don't be too certain of learning the past from the lips of the present. Beware of the most honest broker. Remember that what you are told is really three-fold: shaped by the teller, reshaped by the listener, concealed from both by the dead man of the past."
Barbara Pym's good love Hilary Harvey, writing in 1985 (prematurely ill): "She wasn't ambitious. She was without sensuality." Her unhappy affairs of unrequited love. In 1971, she underwent a mastectomy; she suffered a stroke in 1974, cancer was diagnosed in 1977 & she underwent a course of chemotherapy. Besides this, the recognition of her as the "most underrated author" which gave her so much pleasure
books slightly.

Coco Chanel invented the "sportswear" for women. During the Second World War she lived at the Paris Ritz with a German officer as her lover. She empire lives on

1234 Alexander Solzhenitsyn's September homily on "How to Revitalize Russia" appeared in the official organ of the Communist Youth League, Komsomolskaya Pravda. Among other things he warned against "American cultural imperialism": "The Iron Curtain did an excellent thing: protecting our country against everything good in the West ... but the Curtain didn't prove so all the way down, & allowed the liquid dung of a debauched & decadent 'pop mass culture' to ooze endlessly, along with the most vulgar fashion & public displays — & our deprived youth greedily devoured this garbage."

The Great & the Good (landed, industrial & intellectual aristocracy of Lord Annan's *Our Age*) have not been much loved by the current regime but (as the late Maurice Edelman called it) "the Patronage State" continues apace. Aside from the extended Royal Family, there do remain 24 Dukes, 27 Marquesses, 156 Earls, 102 Viscounts, & 850 Barons. The Queen is the 4th & the Duke of Westminster the 5th richest in the world's top 10 wealthiest people.

TLS, Nov. 23-29, 1990

At the age of 16 Pritchett's family apprenticed him to the Bermondsey leather trade. All Walter Scott had to do was to hire pleasure carpeted with the skins of dead animals. The arduous treadmill soon became his main staple of income.

The whole story about the women in Yeats's life has never been told, because the half-story has so calculatingly served & by Yeats himself. Olivia Shakespear features under the pseudonym "Diana Vernon" in Yeats's memoirs. A redhead, a Pre-Raphaelite heroine ravishingly beautiful & strikingly intelligent, she was unhappily married to an ultra-cautious Lewes solicitor. Her cousin Lionel Johnson expected further meetings & she eventually relieved Yeats of his virginity

—"Court's dreamy local," in a Jeffersian phrase often misinterpreted. His description of Dinsley choosing a tree for the purpose in the Tottenham Court Road is justly celebrated ("Every inch in accordance the response"). More was also the question it contained, which involved a choice between a choice between ~~between~~ entities into simplistic & vicious crude mechanical choices. After their daily masturbatory tomfoolery & after a time of estrangement, they returned to each other as before. Bryan & Hunt & the trial, Yeats married a girl Olivia Shakespear thought Olivia — her doctor's stepdaughter, & her own daughter's closest friend. Pound married her daughter Dorothy. The Shakespear money, as well as purchasing the tree for Yeats's deflowering, bankrolled Pound's demented campaign against "usury" conducted through the 1930s.

The distinction, in Being & Time, between the "ready-to-hand" & the "present-at-hand" captures the vital difference between experience of a world replete with meanings & a passive gazing at an "impersonal" world.

TLS, Nov. 30 - Dec. 6, 1990

No one ever thought Blunden a fraud (A.E. Housman, W.H. Auden, F.R. Leavis & others recognised his genuine talent), but his subject-matter & his language seemed to place him among the discredited neglected of the Georgian period, with Drinkwater, Abercrombie & the rest. He was an unusually tolerant man but his dislike of Kipling remains distasteful. In reality he was a sickly, rubbishy poet, with weak verse, fine passages for the Brutes, the nervous disease, the self-mutilations & suicides, so unmentioned in Undertones of War, & when Graves wrote about them in Goodbye to All That Blunden was outraged. Blunden spent by far the longest time in the trenches: two years, twice as long as Graves, one & a half times as long as Sassoon. His first publication had been a translation of Verlaine, but he never

Russia was prepared to take a great leap forward along the road of "capitalism" that could be continued to look the other way & tie to himself & to the world about his own country.

managed to take Bletonic & bring it back, as Pelléas had advised. In Japan, he was seen as a successor to Lafcadio Hearn, from he wrote: "... he talked slosh, they liked slosh ..." The story of Aki Hayashi was first revealed in an article in the TLS in 1981. She was 36, a Christian (which implied self-seeking), over-educated for woman, & with a dark complexion. As so often, the foreigner fell for an interned exile. Blunden made almost a written promise to marry Aki "in case" he "should marry a second time." He took her to England & supported her until her death. Aki found her own way of fulfilment, which was 34 years' solitude in a Hampstead bed-sitter. She died in 1962. She was of invaluable help to Blunden as a researcher & copyist in the British Museum. When his divorce from Mary finally came through, he forgot his ambiguous promise to Aki, & instead married a Cockney lady, Sylvia Norman, née Nicholson, of Armenian extraction. Like Aki she liked his poetry & became a friend, but the admiration was not returned. An amicable divorce from Sylvia Norman enabled him to marry Claire Poynting, 22 yrs his junior. Blunden's second stay in Japan, as "cultural counsellor", began in 1947. He was given a rousing welcome. The Japanese can be ruthless in their requests (though, once refused, they never ask again) & Blunden, cursed with inability to say no, was climbing into his lecture when Prof. Enid Starkie, who was known by Blunden for the Oxford Professorship of Poetry in 1966, was asked to praise a line of his verse she disliked. Malicia Tonna, pouting dowell, was equally at a loss.

Graham Greene in Getting to Know the General gives a flattering portrait of the Panamanian ruler Omar Torrijos. He was described as a military dictatorship and a socialist revolution. His womanizing, his drinking, his cigars, his adventurousness, his drug-trafficking & his sponsorship of the man he called "my friend": Manuel Antonio Noriega. He was a confidant of Nelson Rockefeller, & Greene,

He shuns celebrity as much as he avoids celebrities

backwards to satisfy the security concerns of the Carter Administration & temporarily jeopardizing the U.S. the right to intervene in Panama for years to come. The U.S. military intervention that finally destroyed the regime is an implicit admission of failure. He can't remove Gen. Noriega from Panama but he'd brought cigarettes during three decades

129 J. Edgar Hoover held meeting in common with the Communist Party where he boasted the following obsessively during his 50-yr reign as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: an instinctive distrust of Negroes & intellectuals. His fascination expanded over the post decade & a half of FBI disclosures & the Freedom of Information Act has revealed that Hoover collected files to be maintained on most of America's Nobel Prize-winning novelists, among others. Smith & Lyon accumulated 150 pages of memoranda; Hemingway 122; Pearl Buck—who outraged certain prejudices in the armed forces—merited a thicker file, of 280 pp. Scores of other American writers from Dorothy Parker to Allen Ginsberg, had had their lives, their movements, sometimes the contents of their, & much more, recorded by the FBI. The black Marxist James Baldwin generated 1,730 pages of FBI reports. Poor blacks who became the password "Integration" was enough to land Hoover & his special agents on full alert. In Syracuse University there was scarcely a distinction between a Communist & a Liberal. Having finally accepted that a known Communist had had a chance of hurt, the FBI, for from limiting him or her alone, was ready to make direct approaches to see if the dissenter would convert into an informer. Calvin Hoover noted the soft to be covered. Ben Jonson thought women should not read at all; for them to do so was to force the female sex of poetry to indulge in "Tribade [lesbian] lust".

2 London schoolmistress.

Ronald Langford, Citizen's Price Service, ed by G. A. Wells & D. R. Thorner Thought is essentially distinct from language, though it does make use of words. Often it does so by using words like the things they should be pointing at. The step from Joyce & Eliot to Gilbert Ryle Heidegger, predictably, is another; Kant is not. The edge between "coherent dichotomy" & "confusion" is perhaps.

Alain Corbin, Women for Hire: Prostitution & Sexuality in France after 1850 tr Alan Sheridan. By the later 19th century the maison-close had been replaced by the Maison de rendez-vous or maison tolérée. "Clandestine" prostitution escaped the regulatory system — femmes de brasserie, fille à soldat, etc. Balzac's Nucingen: "Society & all books is fundamentally prostituted." "The régime of Napoleon III remodelled prostitution in profound."

Ronald Mellon's Stolen Words (1989) covers literary plagiarism from Laurence Sterne to Joe Biden. Most interesting to university people is his long 4th ch. "Duel for Glory: The Don: An Academic Affair" tells the story of an American historian who built a whole career on the systematic plunder of other people's theses, articles & books. What is astonishing is that from early stage his employers & a series of editors & publishers were perfectly aware of the facts but they did not dare alert the "Press", for fear of legal action. The plagiarist ended up in 1985 with a place at the NEH whose responsibilities included "monitoring the grants awarded to university professors for the benefit of their research." The only credentials needed for speaking with authority of India are an Indian name & self-hating attitude that is considered a hallmark of sanity in a colonial. With deep exception (probably Bernal & East Anglia, for example) in Britain the terms "University of X" & "X University" are interchangeable: the University

the Great North-South ~~di~~ divide grows ever wider.

& Oxford = Oxford University, "the University & Edinburgh" & "Edinburgh University Press." In America, unless it's a "College," a university is either "the University of X" or "X University" & never both. Thus Princeton University is Princeton, the University of Chicago never Chicago University, The University of Pennsylvania never Pennsylvania University, & Indiana University never the University of Indiana. Washington University is in St Louis; the University of Washington is in Seattle. Boston University is never The University of Boston.

Yi has got Literary Review, March 1991
Authors Take Side on Gulf War
Wise publishers had the idea of producing an opportunistic Volume in which the best effort Authors Take Sides on Vietnam. The temptations of such a book are obvious. It writes itself; it costs nothing, since authors are always flattered to be asked for their opinions that they treat it as charitable work. Professor Stephan Thernstrom of Harvard used in his lectures the word Indians instead of Native Americans. As a charge of racism, however unsubstantiated, leaves a lasting impression. "Once accused, you're always suspect." The new fundamentalists are an eclectic group: they include Multiculturalists, feminists, radical homosexuals, Marxists, New Historicists. What unites them—as firmly as the Christian fundamentalists are united in the belief that the Bible is the (revealed) word of God—is the conviction that Western culture & American society are thoroughly racist, sexist & oppressive. In the prevailing ~~culture~~ climate, Thomas Jefferson & all the Founding Fathers were indictable. The Constitution is "the embodiment of the White Male with Property Model." Racism & sexism are for the most part subconscious or at least subsurface. Last February Patrick Moynihan declared during a lecture at Vassar that North Ameri-

Salman Rushdie is now a big name. For many Muslim fundamentalists in Teheran, Rushdie is more of a Western than a real Muslim or Iranian writer.

over "a model of reasonably successful multiethnic society." He got into a scrape with a feminist who disagreed with him. Militant students occupied a lecture building until Mozelian returned his lecture fee. A new McCarthyism: a few highly mobilized radical students can intimidate everyone else." "The canon of social literature was created by high-Anglican ass—s to underwrite their social class," wrote Stanley Fish, the head of Duke's English department, of which Eve Sedgwick, author of such papers as "Jane Austen & the Masturbating Girl" is a member. This obsessive tendency to see oppression everywhere is creating a sort of caste system. A handout from the Office of Student Affairs at Smith College listed various categories of oppression that ranged from "classism" & "ageism" to "ableism" ("oppression of the differently abled by the temporarily able") & "lookism" ("the construction of a standard for beauty/attractiveness & oppression through stereotypes & generalizations of/by those who do not fit the standard & those who do"). A highly intelligent Mexican candidate for the Ph.D. program in Latin American literature was rejected because in his statement of his literary preferences he cited Shakespeare & Mexican writers: thus betraying Eurocentric tendencies.

Perhaps Rushdie had smelt the night air over the abyss. Perhaps the loneliness had become unbearable. And for the jump from Canada, main to publicity "spinning the two central tenets of Islam—the oneness of God & the genuineness of the prophecy of the Prophet Muhammad—& then to state, the body of Islam adds or detracts or distorts almost everything." The ink had hardly dried on the stern voice in Teheran revealed its pre-judged sentence & told the author to prepare for a "brave death". Nothing he did could ever convince them.

Ronald Hyam, Empire & Sexuality: the British Experience. Manchester Univ.

one for "Melchipmen skylarking over our body", Henry Lawrence was diverted, General Gordon used to enjoy watching "Graveseni Uzbekis in the bathtub", Kitchener was a repressed homosexual, Rhodes collected phallic cult carvings. "Fine boy" in Palmerston's diary meant "endaway" — a fairly regular boy 25 staff would have a wreck.

Elena Ceaucescu presented herself as a research chemist of international repute because she once held a job as an assistant in a company of patent medicine. The work of the scientists in the Romanian top chemistry institute was all attributed to her. Before the Ceaucescus' official visit to London in 1978, the Romanian ambassador suggested that the Royal Society might like to make Elena an Honorary Fellow. A polite refusal was followed by offers from Oxford & London Universities. Eventually Central London Polytechnic agreed to give her an honorary degree.

"Modern" Iraqi women are "obedient" — to fathers, husbands & brothers — as the dominant factor in their lives. Abject submission is the best route to a happy marriage. Iraqi husbands rarely use the words "My wife," preferring, for instance, "the mother of the boys", & in their private company, "cow". There is no Arabic word for "love-making". An absurd male chauvinist religion. The most passive women are suspected of the greatest licence should they, for a moment, be let off the leash.

Saddam Hussein's triumphal architecture can be found entirely in the Iran-Iraq war. The most extreme case — Saddam's Crescent Palace, soaring over the Ground, brandishing swords which reach 40 metres above the towers. From each of their hilt-pommels, a victorious Iranian helmet. The sword-blades were allegedly forged from the weapons

Elaine Showalter, Sexual Anarchy: Gender & Culture at the Fin de Siècle. Yet from "sexual anarchy" was coined by Bridget Bishop in his novel The Odd Woman. As a result of the increasing participation of women overseas, the spinster posed a threat to men's jobs. Bishop's solution to stem the overseas flow: pay single women to emigrate to the colonies.

If Iraqi "machines", like the ones, almost incredibly, to be set up in Basingstoke. The West has recently helped to epitomise Saddam's regime by selling him arms, but also by creating an authoritarian climate in which Kitsch is able to masquerade as high art. Modern architects have been flocking to Baghdad since the early '80s to lend their hand in the Iraqi exchequer. Robert Venturi was invited to have a stab at designing the Baghdad State Mosque. Saddam has further endeared himself to the international art community by staging two International Arts Festivals (the most recent entitled Art For Humanity) and lavishing cash prizes on Arab exhibitors. Postmodernism has proved pliant to Saddam's aims.

Harlem had its heyday in the 1920s. This was due to two things: jazz & Prohibition. Street fights are resolved not with fisticuffs but with semi-automatic weapons of high calibre. The prospect of being sent to prison holds little terror; indeed, "doing a bit" in the pen is regarded as a rite of passage.

Keith Waterhouse, English Our English. In 1987 Waterhouse was one of the several prominent writers chosen to join the Kingman committee which Kenneth Baker, then the Minister for Education, set up to report on the teaching of English. The Prime Minister & the Chancellor are guided not by their feet in their respective mouths, but the holders of office are not identified. Sir Ernest Gowers did not shrink from naming the guilty in Plain Words, but those who have made a more recent contribution to the debasement of language need not fear exposure here.

Neither is "appeasement" clung to Lord Halifax like nothballs.

London Review of Books, 25 April 1991

There is more wistfulness than passion in G. M. Hopkins's diary references to desire for a boy seen on Post Office duty or a young man mowing. A Kilvert or a Denton Welch are [sic] able to make the most [illegible] of their muted sexuality in

their writing. He is the first English poet since Shakespeare to find a wholly new way of conveying think-speak in metre (T. S. Eliot was probably the second). Both patterns are more important than Hopkins's theories of inscape, instress & the rest. The trouble is that this Hellenic dualism can collide head-on with decorative "decadence", producing some of his worst efforts, like "Harry Ploughman" or the "Echo" poem. His family in "Wade" was touchingly proud of his gifts in drawing & music correspondingly shocked by his conversion to Catholicism. In Newman's novel Loss & Gain, the hero, mocking with a newly-married young Anglican parson & bride, "felt a Jewish feeling come over him: something that should beset a man on hearing a call for pork chops when he was sea-sick". He wrote passionate sonnets to his young friend Digby Dolben, a character drowned before entering Oxford, who wrote passionate to his friend Bisselin, an unspeakable cold fish. Hopkins wrote on the autograph copy of those sonnets that they "must never be printed". Bridges, a cousin of Dolben's, understood the reason. Hopkins suffered from chronic dysentery & piles. Jesuits then were not long livers. Forty-five was the average span — Hopkins's own age. Psychosomatic symptoms must also have been exacerbated by his appetite for penance — his sisters had at times to forbid him to fast — & some of his erotic device, like spiked chain worn round the thigh, agonizing when you sat down. After he had written a sonnet on the tragic boy's first communion he noted: "I am half inclined to hope that the Hero of it may be killed in Afghanistan." It saved him from sexual corruption. But how to pare off that deadly "time's eunuch"? Hopkins had himself circumcised, a symbolic castration. His sad conscientiousness about the "discipline of the eyes", schooling himself not to look up at the things he longed minutely to examine.

The Real & Good Sir Craig Raine at Faber (or perhaps some-one even higher up if there is such a person)

4

A copy of Karl Marx's death certificate is on display at the Museum dedicated to him in his birthplace, Trier. It gave "bronchitis" as the cause of death. Why would English coroners in the 1880s eager to anticipate Gracie Allen, who in consoling a friend for the loss of her mother said: "Oh, I hope she didn't die of anything serious".

The German General Staff used to divide army officers into 4 categories: the clever & lazy, the clever & hard-working, the stupid & lazy & the stupid & hard-working. The clever & lazy made the best generals, the clever & hard-working the best staff-officers, the stupid & lazy could be fitted in as regimental officers, but the stupid & hard-working were a positive menace & had to be got rid of as quickly as possible. Douglas Haig belonged to the 4th group.

The Annales Gospel: "Les hommes ressemblent plus à leur temps qu'à leurs pères". All non-Western countries have encountered the same problem. Usually the first response is to try to have it both ways: Western technology but not Western culture, capitalism without democracy & human rights. And usually it turns out that one cannot have the best of both worlds. Some countries have got the worst of each, others have achieved economic success at the price of cultural assimilation. The struggle between the Chinese Communist Party & the Guomindang was always part of a triangular conflict, with either Japan or the Soviet Union as the third corner. Of the great reformer, Zhang Zhidong, who set his Wuhan steelworks there it could be said, his book-keeping ignoring the distance of his site from the source of his raw material, so adding costs which doubled the price of his finished steel." Another, Guo Songtang, "built his new woollen mills where there was actually no soft water within a thousand miles."

11 Cecil Rawson: "Old Literature & Its Enemies":

The economics of publishing encouraged the production of novels & poems of the kind university instructors would be tempted to write about, thus justifying their careers.

& to appeal to their classes, thus bringing in profits. The college market in the U. S. is very large. "Theory" owes its proliferation to large numbers of instructors & students who come to literature departments who want much else to read books & write papers on writing, not only "vastly superior to a scornful & professors, in the manner of Gore Vidal", but simply independent or unconscious of professors, an idea that doesn't seem to enter the minds of some academics & teachers within the realm of possibility. It is reported that in many universities some teachers discourage a live interest in "the old literature", sometimes to the point of intimidation or penalty, bordering on intellectual terrorism. The facetious bowing to the inevitable in the parade of "realism", seems cheap. If the flippant & an abdication of vigilance on the part of senior academics & administrators, who presided uncritically over the ever-shrinking expansion of the discipline & allowed it to be invaded by elements radically ~~hostile~~ uninterested in either scholarship or literature, & whose successors are now simply acquiescing in, & even abetting a hijacking of the classroom by militant proponents of special interest groups. Literature in universities became a haven for people who couldn't or wouldn't do anything else. As Donald Davie pointed out some years ago, many of them didn't like, or had no interest in, what they were supposed to teach & had to find something other than reading books to occupy their considerable surplus of energy & time. There is a clear connection between this situation & the flowering of modes of literary theory which propose that it is equal to, or better than, or independent of, the texts from which it derives or which it purports to be studying, & which there is an increasing disposition to ignore or bypass. It may be possible to take a degree in literature without reading any books. The philosophical pretensions of most literary theorists are derided by professional philosophers. English in its

He escalates the upheaval vertiginously

academic life is one of those subjects which one can get away with doing badly on a scale unthinkable in physics, or economics or even history. It has developed a strong mood of resistance to fact. People with no interest in literature are given endless opportunities of reading & writing about it. The spread of radicalised theory in the U.S. originated from the elite institutions & permeated downwards, whereas in Britain, though influenced by highly-placed ideologues from America & France, it originated from below & achieved only limited penetration of the higher sectors. Moreover, while British universities have remained relatively resistant to the theory takeover, in America it is still in the more prestigious institutions (to which should be added one or two campuses which set a very high cash value on competing with them) that one finds the more powerfully entrenched cells. In France, things seem different again. The upheaval has been neither upward nor downward, but lateral & extra-territorial, mostly (in bad translations) to the Anglophone world. David Lehman says in Signs of the Times: Deconstruction & the Fall of Paul de Man that Deconstruction was short-lived in France, & I have heard Derrida described as a vedette américaine. Paul de Man seems to be largely unknown in French intellectual life. The real world is a bigger place than the academy, & the takeovers of the MLA in 1968 was not like the Cultural Revolution in China, nor comparable to the violence on the streets of Paris. Don't be misled by the snap, crackle & pop of sarcastic phrases (Alvin Kernan's) in The Death of Literature. He really believes the revolution has happened. Who, then, are these "critics", in the sense he employs, & the critics according to Kernan, these critics no longer read novels, plays or poems, only each other, & this is the 'death of literature'. While a film or television production of an older novel or play, far from substituting for the original, often stimulates its profitable republication, the critical excavations on the same novel by

a deconstructor and it have the opposite effect. Exceptions can and should occur: thus Barbara Johnson's reading of Derrida's reading of Lacan's reading of Poe's "Purloined Letter" may drive one to an otherwise unseductive text for sheer relief from its interpreters. Literary theory has always provided circumstances which distracted Gerald Graff's claim in Professing Literature that the present state of the theory is a replay of all past literary academic disputes about the teaching of literature since English studies were first introduced as a university subject. His book is a valuable contribution to the anthropology of the field. Before Vidal was not oversimplifying much when he said that if "the old New Criticism separated Author from Text, the new Theory has put back the Text & comes over "theorized, as illness, upon a terra incognita." What is new in the present situation is that Theory is imposed, not as an adjunct to the reading of books, but as a replacement of that process altogether as an autonomous critical activity which may exist independently of it. The identification of theory with a more or less coercive political agenda (called "political correctness", "Multiculturalism", etc. that has lately attracted attacks of a "new McCarthyism" Stanley Fish, chairman of the English Department at Duke University, a major national power-broker of the theory trade, spoke to the Board of Trustees of the University demanding that local members of the National Association of Scholars should be banned from "key committees involving tenure or curriculum decisions" because their organization was "racist, sexist & homophobic." Fish also declared that he didn't believe "free speech" was enough. "Non-Harmless forms of power ... I want them to do what I tell them to do ... I'm a fascist by any non-evil definition." Houston Baker, a black man and an old friend of Fish, accused those saying that choosing between Virginia Woolf & Peter Buck is "no different from choosing between a hoagy & a pizza", each of his "cultural is

* cf London Review of Books

13 June, 1991 PC [Political Correctness]

dedicated to the day when we have dispensed with those standards," can nowadays be elected President of MLA? It seems evident that such an outlook will not get him very far in the fast food cuisines. This style of egomania affects itself & to its language—in the form of salaries, support services, perks, lecture fees & the expensive hospitality conferences & other promotional exercises—immense sums of money better spent on more educational priorities. This coerciveness has its institutional reflection in codes of behaviour which Duke University, is seeking to impose on its members. At the end of the entrepreneurial Fish it has decided to go trendy & collected the biggest & loudest assembly of literature professors dedicated to doing dirt on literature ("a nest of singing birds"). It is the World's largest supermarket of hard theory as well as of applied multiculturalism. But it's not the only place where a thought-police or body-language police, is getting into gear. A programme at Tulane University in New Orleans is being set up in which "faculty & students will be encouraged to report on each other" for signs of sexism & racism, with every department watched by "an 'Enrichment Liaison Person' to inform the administration about continuing progress in the 'Initiatives'." The result is that departments which used to make themselves mediocre by preferring white males over better-qualified women or blacks are now making themselves doubly mediocre by the same process in reverse, while many of the original records stay still in place. "The commonplace wisdom among job-seekers at MLA conventions is that if you want to make it in the Criticism racket you have to be a deconstructionist or a Marxist or a feminist." One hears of students being told that their essays aren't deconstructive enough or feminist enough.[13] Undergraduates report that they find deconstruction a great yawn, to their credit. Much

roughly that deconstructors seem to feel about their graduates, to stay directly the new pedantry might pave the better than the old but for the fact that the capsules are stacked by unprofessional conduct on the part of individuals & by the panic-stricken adoption of crudely extra-professional criteria on the part of the institution. Such elements had better ~~separate~~ be hived off into separate institutional units. Not already exist in some places departments of Communication Studies or Cultural Studies. To expose students to a conflicting babel of theories seems ghoulish. The idea that not forcing a student's opinions to itself political, maintaining the status quo etc, is brought out of mothballs to all the glee of a child showing off a new toy. The idea of examining for artistic knowledge is identified either with elementary school or the police state. / Paul de Man,

Signs of the Times: Deconstruction & the Fall of Paul de Man is a survey of the current fortunes of Deconstruction as an ideological routine, & as a talismanic token in American intellectual life. He also gives the fullest account I have seen of the American biographical about de Man, which recently include financial irregularities, possible bigamy, a Rousseauistic disconcerting love, to the children of his first marriage, as well as Nazi collaboration & 4 decades of mendacity or dissimulation on most of those subjects. It offers good coverage of the gobbledegook & double think brought to bear on de Man's defence. Derrida's response in Critical Inquiry to pair the assailants with the fingers of Ubu Roi & the conciseness of Cassio. The second response, engagingly entitled "Biodegradables", is longer than all six answers to this first defence put together, & must be the most voluminous mixture of Shandean digression & irrelevance ever to have been allowed into a journal professedly committed to rational discourse. The English text of these pieces suggests in places that Derrida & his translator do

The danger is that the fact may strike its object, unmitigated Austin make the point a true.

not have between them a common knowledge of both English & French. The potential for misprision opens up as an abyss of their continental projections. Derrida's best pieces are on a frame of puzzling hypothesis. The readings are clever, but without finesse, simplifying & shrinking as the days go by.

The aim of St Augustine's Confessions is more spiritual edification than self-revelation, an exposition of the divine scheme with reference to a particular life & experience. The converted Augustine laments the fact that "he was once" forced to learn about the wanderings of some legendary hellenic named Aeneas ... & to weep over the death of a Dido who took her own life from love." The ostensible simplicity & Biblical cadence the discerning ear are privileged to detect the most complex philosophical truths. In his last 4 books, esp. in BK XII, he spells out a hermeneutic theory of Biblical polysemy "the French call it pain, the Germans call it Brot & we call it bread; & we are right, because it is bread." He wrote (I have learned though I have not been able to verify the reference) an English memoir of language in the 17th century. His is an extreme case of the view of Cratylus in the Platonic dialogue.

London Review of Books, 9 May 1991

Journalists, who take great pride in breaching others' self-protective barricades of denial, are ardent stone-walls when it comes to their own activities & about an utterly inviolable Freedom of the Press. They gain individuals' confidences by pretending to be in sympathy with them, inducing them thereby to "give more of themselves away than they would wish". His "normal" journalistic practice is ethically indefensible. Such an interviewer is like the cock-teaser who, after knowingly arousing sexual expectations with blatant innuendo & body language, indignantly defends his refusal to meet those expectations with a disingenuous affection of innocence: "But I never actually said I would — you just deceived himself!"

The General Index, an entity pte Hauptwerk ~~the~~ as Name & Sache to the Noch Nöjs monitor.

Jim Bayley pours a ten-year academic education on Graham Greene's face when Jack Greene is back for living too long. He & Celestine Greene by bracketing him with le Carré, that purveyor of cardboard contrivances; he dwells in Virginia Woolf's people, and Ward Ritners for the prosecution. Greene's bizarre Catholicism & Leftism may lose a single bogey, but was a crucial ingredient & tells us more about the fiercely expert, the single-subject bore, the genre bestseller. That writers, like anyone else, live & move in an "age" is undeniable; they are in a sense "of" their age. But in another sense, the age doesn't count for much, or counts in ways that are barely ponderable; there is of course an "Age of Shakespeare", yet, as the indications are, Shakespeare "was not of an age, but for all time" (an observation made by someone living in Shakespeare's age). The trouble with background studies is that they tend, as more than one has to obscure the foreground. Werther wasn't too pleased by Goethe's attentions to his future wife. When Lotte Buff, with whom Goethe had fallen in love, married her fiancé, his friend Kestner. The couple must have been discomfited by Goethe's concern to provide Lotte with material for her ~~the wedding~~ trousseau; to make sure he didn't turn up for the wedding, they brought the date forward by a week. They would be embarrassed far more acutely when the following year, The Sorrows of Young Werther burst on the scene with its perfectly obvious parallels, even to the name "Lotte". The narrative, as Lewes put it, "in many respects touches to reality not to be very pensive in its deviations from reality." Goethe had many half-affairs. G. C. Lichtenberg said in 1779: "If another 2 Lotte's specimens comes the degeneration of the human being from the coldness of our sentimental writings they will conclude it to have been a heart without feelings." What Goethe was afraid of, Nicholas Boyle says in Goethe: The Poet & the Age, Vol. I,

v of Flaubert, Emily Dickinson, Leonardo da Vinci (in 傳銘弼 vol. V).

Was that desire fulfilled around Easter and Ascension? If not the sport, then non-consummation was a requisite. At all event, Goethe was no adept at avoiding marriage as Kafka, a man he resembled in no other respect. Lili Schönemann was completely available & very suitable; & towards the end of his life Goethe told Eckermann that Lili was the first woman he deeply & truly loved, & also the last. He married Christiane Vulpius only in 1806, when he was 57, 18 years after they had begun to live together. At the apex of his administrative career Goethe was both War Minister & Chancellor of the Exchequer; in the latter capacity he persuaded the Duke to agree to reductions in the armed forces, thus becoming one of the few War Ministers who have voluntarily halved their budget. Despite Goethe's "temperate" wooing, the relationship between Charlotte von Stein & Goethe, which lasted 12 yrs, remained platonic. Baron von Stein was only intellectually cuckolded. They were inseparable, except at nights. "He needed that impossible union, for fear of the possible." His affair with a Roman widow, "Faustina", for which there is documentary evidence, is in large part the inspiration for the Roman Elegies. In Frau von Stein's eyes his two years absence in Rome had been an infidelity, & worse was to follow. He promptly set up house with Christiane Vulpius, 23 yrs old (to his 39), uneducated & illiterate but endowed only in the primary level. It sadly put Frau von Stein's platonic nose out of joint.

Politics like Amnesty & the Rights Watch groups survive thanks to financial contributions from donors who often have strong political opinions. They have trained & inhibited & have inevitably play politics.

It is one of the paradoxes of intelligence, & of its practitioners one of the disappointing aspects of their profession, that its greatest successes are rarely disclosed to the outside world & are only disclosed involuntarily. When dictators strike an example.

If this is Eli Cohen, "Agent in Damascus", the legendary spy who gained acceptance in the highest echelons of the Syrian Government, and was consequently able to supply his bosses in Tel Aviv with priceless information—until, that is, he was caught & hanged. Even without making allowance for the secrets that will for ever remain secret, Israel's intelligence service can boast of some astonishing successes. Its list of world-class coups includes the acquisition of Khrushchev's de-Stalinisation speech, the abduction of Adolf Eichmann, procuring the defection of an Iraqi pilot with his Mig, the raid to rescue the hostages at Entebbe, & the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. For sheer chutzpah, the theft of the Mirage production plans & the stealing of 5 missile boats from Cherbourg harbour following the suspension of French arms supplies to Israel takes some beating. In addition, there have been the covert flights to bring to Israel the Jews of Iraq, Morocco, Ethiopia &, most recently, the entire Jewish population of Albania. The list of failures is also long. In the mid-Sixties, for example, the prevailing assessment was that Egypt would not be ready for War at least until the end of 1970. Tactical Virtuosity went hand in hand with strategic blindness. A much more serious failure occured in 1973 when Egypt & Syria launched their surprise attack against Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Rarely in the annals of war did the intelligence chiefs of one army know more about the plans & preparations of their enemy & how the Israelis did on the eve of the Yom Kippur War. In spite of their accurate information, they made a faulty evaluation & estimated that war was "highly improbable". This time the IDF was caught with its pants down. Unable to predict the Sadat peace initiative & addicted to "Start preparing for war". The invasion of Lebanon was unquestionably a failure, but the failure was primarily one of policy, than of intelligence. It is important to

blame the experts when their advice was ignored & sometimes suppressed because it did not fit in with the Defence Ministry's wishful thinking. From the very beginning Israel saw herself as part of the West & not of the Middle East & set about making herself useful to the U.S. in order to gain American patronage. The first US-Israel agreement on intelligence was signed in 1951.

Often lacking knowledge of the country's language, let alone its culture, reporters were little more than gossip-collectors hanging around embassy & government press offices. News stories, once written, had to pass the gauntlet of official Soviet censors before they could be wired home. Defiance would lead to accreditation credentials & expulsion from the Soviet Union. Reporters also had to contend with professional competition & backbiting. Jealous rivals & an unsympathetic editor would cut their stories & tried to call the shots from America. Walter Duranty & other Western journalists were often reduced to playing hunches. In 1921 he was practically alone in asserting that the new Soviet regime would last & predicting Trotsky's fall & the rise of the obscure Stalin. In the process, he coined the term "Stalinism." One admiring colleague said that he had the ability to look through the brick walls. His sympathy for the Soviet Union didn't derive from any belief in socialism. While he was downplaying the dimensions of famine, he was openly telling a British Embassy official & other that as many as ten million people might have died. Moreover, he conspired with the Soviet press liaison, the interrogations Konstantin Umansky, & other reporters to frame dispatches attacking those Western reporters who tried to push the story — a serious breach of journalistic ethics. He was a alcoholic in his private, a disloyal colleague & an unfaithful husband.

Twenty-five years ago M. I. Finley made a plea in the TLS for "emptying the Classics" He argued that, anchored in the stultifying traditions of old-fashioned philology, cut off from

dialogue with "proper" history, political science & sociology, it was no longer part of any wider cultural debate. Right up to his last book Ancient History: Evidence & Models (1985), he was engaged in prising apart the comfortable, narrow-minded, unreflective assumptions that lay behind much ancient-historical practice. Most ancient historians emerged from long years devoted to Classical language & literature enamoured by the authority of the great Classical texts, predisposed to treat as fact whatever fiction the ancient authors offered. They operated as a routine that the Classical authors should "speak for themselves". The result was that ancient history had a lot to say about generals, emperors & battles; decisions about structure, slavery & economics. Finley would be disappointed at the impact of his critique. The "great tradition" of Classical philology is peculiarly adept at incorporating its enemies. The inheritance of Finley is represented by the questions on slavery & trade which appear at the end of the exam paper — after the regular diet of old chestnuts on the strategy of the Archidamian War, etc. Finley's sting has been drawn by a cultural genuflexion in the direction of a few socio-economic topics. Finley had started out with a healthy scepticism about the "reliability" of Classical sources & a healthy mistrust of many ancient historians. When confronted with any texts in Latin & Greek. But in his later work this scepticism turned into an almost audacious rejection of the literary tradition. So by 1985, in the final chapter of Ancient History, he could claim that the very idea that "sources written in Greek or Latin occupy a privileged status ... is unwarranted & constitutes a major stumbling-block to any proper historical analysis". Of course, it was not long before the majority of Finley's colleagues who relied on Don Capriss's History of Rome as an adequate guide to the reign of the Emperor Augustus.

Timothy Mo, The Redundancy of Courage. When Kazuo Ishiguro was studying creative

writing at the University of East Anglia, his tutor explained to him the concept of the Unique Selling Point, or USP: "Your USP is that you are Japanese." The rest is history or literature, or literary history. It would be difficult to imagine a more Japanese English novel than Ishiguro's Booker Prize-winning *The Remains of the Day*. Britain's craven policy towards China in the wake of the Tiananmen Square massacre has its roots in the same motives which underlay the imperialist aggressive policies in the Opium War in the 1840s. Britain's attempts to exploit the largest potential market in the history of the world were once again, as now appearing, almost shamefully consistently shameful. The voice in which the story is told belongs to a Chinese hotel-proprietor called Adolph Ng ("To pronounce it, imagine you have just constipated a long time. Now strain. Now you have my surname"). Ng has spent 3 yrs at the university in Toronto, where he became an "over-educated colonial." "His face contorted into the fake ready smile of our race."

London Review of Books, 23 May 1991

How much difference can leading ships in politics make? Contrary to what is held by believers in the cult of personality, it may make very little difference. As J.K. Galbraith has observed, changing the top man in important business corporations rarely affects the price of their shares on the market. A rapid glance at the history of the USA also suggests scepticism about the impact of individual leaders. The great country has, by general consent, probably elected to its Presidency — the post of chief executive & commander-in-chief — a greater number of ignorant dunces than any other republic. The Vice-Presidents have usually been chosen for every reason other than their leadership potential. And yet the great US ship of state has sailed on as though it made very little difference that the man on the bridge was Andrew Johnson & not Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt & not McKinley, Mr Wilson

& not Woodrow Wilson.... or even that there was nobody in the White ~~Hall~~ House at all — as under Reagan. A strong economy & great power can be politically almost foolproof, just as, conversely, there are limits to what pure talent & leadership can achieve, as every military historian knows. Rommel was beaten by Generals far inferior to him, but with far superior forces. The little dialogue in Brecht's Galileo has said the last word: "Unhappy the country without heroes!" — "No. Unhappy the country that needs them." Of all the most important questions about political leadership is how leaders are selected. Mainly by family & connections before 1945, since then largely by an supposedly notable Old Boy network. Only Thatcher's genuine passion for self-made men, together with the acute shortage of legal Staffordites of real ability, would have launched John Major on the fast track of promotion. It is no reflection on his abilities to say that under no circumstances would he have got where he is on 29 March 1915 was an unusually lachrymose day in Downing Street when Lloyd George & Asquith pledged ~~eternal~~ loyalty to one another amid mutual tears, the one having just seen his mistress through a bad abortion, the other writing two letters daily to the young lady who was about to ditch him for a rather younger member of his Cabinet.

Iris Murdoch has this to say (in an interview) about feminist & other current threats to the canon: "We [women] want to join the human race, not invent a new segregation. This self-conscious separation leads to rubbish like 'black studies' & 'women's studies'. Let's just have studies."

I do not suppose the rulers of the German Democratic Republic studied Kafka. The other book, the one & more famous aesthetically more distinguished one, the one designed to protect Clerks from the barbarians, inspired Kafka to the following reflection: "By withall your might to comprehend the degree of the high command, but only up to a certain point, then avoid further meditation."

Nabokov to Padilla helped to create the god who later failed him. The new Cuban writers' vision was to depend on approval by the National Board of Culture. "The bureaucracy always treated culture as if it were an opposition party." For a while he was reticent, not even to talk, to one of Castro's model farms: in Cuba he would have been made to labour on it. "The classic role of self-degradation" or self-criticism.

Few things are more degrading than trying to keep a friendship after the reciprocity has gone. Johnson: "A man, sir, should keep his friendship in constant repair"; presumably he meant both keeping old friends & making new ones. It is a dismal task to keep up a friendship after the natural occasion of it has departed. Larkin tended to keep his friends in separate compartments. Your Best Friend of one day can disown you, ruthlessly armed with a full knowledge of your weak points, gleaned during the period of your intimacy. Edith Simcox records in her Autobiography: "She [George Eliot] said—perhaps it would shock me—she had never all her life cared very much for women—it must seem monstrous to me—I said I had always known it." George Eliot added that men were "that she liked, perhaps because they were always kind to her when she was young, while 'girls & women seem to look on her as somehow uncanny.'" The solicitous Hayley was so appalling that Blake exclaimed: "Dear my enemy for friendship's sake."

In 1978 Terry Eagleton wrote an epistle on John Bayley in the New Left Review, a ritual excoriation of "a view of life from the Oxford senior common room window." Eagleton's ascent into Bayley's chair is very surprising indeed. Some, no doubt, will think that Marxism is the latest of the lost causes to find a home in Oxford. One of the 2 or 3 most prestigious chairs of literature in England will be occupied by a man who has published a "Ballad" of English literature" (to the tune of

"Land of Hope & Glory") Waiting for Godot: "Shaw was a class traitor / Shakespeare hated the mob / Donne said that a fart later / Sidney was a mob." / Accordingly, his authority leans more for subversion only, the absurd. Alternative possibility is that the infiltration is that of Marxism, but of Cambridge. "Re-Leavisation" is the word that stands out in Eagleton's caricature of his Oxford colleague. Where Oxford still has a combination of textual editing & the wine-tasting school of criticism, Eagleton's sixties Cambridge had the moral fervour of Leavis & the political consciousness of Raymond Williams. I have once met the Boston Boycott & he said some funny things. He said that he felt he needed to take a contraceptive. He made the joke again in an interview published in The Significance of Theory (1990). In the sixties there was Terence the Existential Catholic, in the seventies Terry the Althusserian Affiliated Jew, in the Eighties Eagleton the Ludic Eclectic. His first book The New Left (Church) (1966), published when he was 23, is an attempt to hold together Roman Catholicism, Leavisite cultural value & left-wing politics. A hard-carving & convincing with the idiosyncratic creed that the Holy Spirit is a real presence in the records of "Great Tradition." The influence of Existentialism is at its strongest in his first strictly literary critical book, Shakespeare & Society (1967) — The Quest for "personal authenticity" (authenticité); in his hands, Troilus & Cressida becomes a version of Les Mains Sales & Macbeth of La Nausée. The analysis is boringly seductive. Louis Althusser's essay "Ideology & Ideological State Apparatuses" (appearing in English in 1971) provided our author — now Terry not translated to Marx — with the framework for the 3 books 5 yrs later. Where Terence had agonised about the authenticity of the individual self, Terry sets out to prove literature is the subject. Even the work of Raymond Williams is

† *London Rev of Books* 25 April 1991

Reviewed by "humanism" & idealism". "Good poems" & "good novels" are broken down into their constituent elements as GI/MP (General Mode of Production), IdMP (Ideary Mode of Production), GI (General Ideology), AI (Authorial Ideology) & AI (Aesthetic Ideology). The chemist can then set to work (see *Criticism & Ideology*, a work of heavy-duty theory). In the preface to his play *Saint Oscar* (1989), he calls Wilde "the Irish (Protestant) socialist proto-deconstructionist" which sounds a bit like self-portrait. A passage in *Walter Benjamin* reveals a mind still controlled by the imagery of Roman Catholicism: "Capitalism grips death to its stone grave-digger, shattering the calyx of the well-one day stabs the high priest in the back." The most extraordinary progression of fault occurs in the chapter on Kierkegaard in *The Ideology of the Aesthetic*, which makes a claim for Kierkegaard's relevance "to the present age"

London Review of Books, 13 June 1991

4

An institutional take-over was being attempted by elements hostile to the study of literature, as also to free speech. That the attempt is being made through coercive activities & vituperative manipulation of the intellectual debate is a matter of record. I [Claude Rawson] told the Daily Mail (or any other) Right. The habit of insinuating that anyone who doesn't think like Mr Jonathan Dollimore & co belongs to that persuasion is a minor example of that coerciveness. The word "conservative" is nowadays used as a kind of knockdown slur, much as the word "communist" was sometimes used in the past, to cover practically anything or person of broadly centrist outlook by campus ideologues. These same cultural heroes make the Nazi sympathizers Céline or de Man. I am not against literary theory, but against some specific political, institutional & pedagogic phenomena that have appropriated the name. Matrioshki are those wooden, hollow Russian dolls, carved figures - shaped & decorated -nesting

so much in the way of features or artists. What they look in books, they make pose in personality. Each hall served increasingly small replicas one inside another. In the streets of Moscow, you can now buy a new-style matrioshka. The outside doll is Gorbachev, inside him is Brezhnev, Khrushchev, & finally, inside Khrushchev, Lenin & Stalin. The English of Constance Garnett's translations is marred by an element of prudishness. Brigsby is too prone to translate the Russian into Jane-Austen-ese, & the tragedy of Constance by her friends Richard Garnett is the life of a nobody & served to cut both the eccentricities & the ordinary. Her marriage to Edward Garnett was celibate after the birth of their only child, David or Bunny. Constance suffered a prolapse of the uterus. Edward, with her consent, found himself a sexual partner in Nellie Heath, a painter who had previously fallen for her teacher Sickert. Constance had her own tendresses, though none of these became physical. Apart from domination, sex & Sickness are the great currents through her life, sometimes flowing together. What kind of internal support must she have worn? How was it kept clean? How did she manage while menstruating? Was it flexible on long Russian train journeys? Was it specially made, like Ruskin's bags? She thinks of Elisabeth Bays, born from Foxhead.

Since Westward visits near a valuable park, this near controlled by Directors of Institutes & Academies, & used to reward reliable stalwarts within it encourage free spirits. The relationship between orthodox Marxist Arnold Kettle who praises the healthiness of Soviet culture & bourgeois Kettle becomes tense when the latter wants to acclaim a bourgeois work as a masterpiece. He works hard to persuade himself & us that Dickens was a "pre-realist" – because not possible to get off the Soviet Union. He claims that Dickens was not just a Manny

the people, but always on their side. This is simply untrue. Dickens joined the people when they turned revolutionary & became "the mob" in Barnaby Rudge & A Tale of Two Cities.

Blunden's best-known poem & anthology piece "Report on Experience", being a reflective fiction, partly quotation, contains Shakespeare's "When I was young (as yet I am not old)" & the Psalmist: "I have been young & now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken": "I have been young, & now am too old if..." Like Ralph Hodgson, whom he knew well in Japan, he suffers from anthologies. He made friends with Adrian Bell & the planned the first complete of The Times crossword. Bell remarked that there was "something about the little man that made everyone like him & want to protect him from everyone else". Hayama apt to smother him with "misdirected affection". Although his students at Tokyo University soon began to like him, he was lonely there, & it was not long before he was related by a short-lived teacher, Miss his senior, called Aki Hagaski. Aki spoke excellent English, & made it clear she would like to accompany him back to England & marry him after he had obtained a divorce. Mr Madam Butterfly (his students found, of course, wondered what on earth he could see in her), she was tender & kind & helpful, all that a Japanese wife could still be, & Blunden seems to have given her every encouragement. Aki did indeed come home with him: & once there he was dismissively reconciled with his wife Mary. Aki was installed in a room & set to work on Leigh Hunt in the British Museum. She settled down drearily enough in her new role. Blunden supported her & was invariably kind. The Georgians had stayed forever: they hung on. He spent an evening with Sassoon comparing their different copies of Goodbye

th All That with its pointedly hostile comments on the right in their friendship with Graves was nicely entirely healed. But Good to All That won in the end, on merit, though Uncle Tom's Cabin was far more popular at the time. Blunden pastoralized war, as he had done the Home Counties in his poetry. He impulsively took Duke of Windsor's side at the time of the Abdication Crisis.

Like Lewis, the Puffin of Barchester: A Real-Life Version of Anthony Trollope. The Duke of Wellington, defending the Lord Chancellor of Ireland for distributing lucrative posts among his family, complained of the "senseless outcry against public men for not having overlooked the first claim of Nature in dispensing the Patronage of Office." Nowhere was the practice of nepotism more honoured than in the Church of England. Fewer & fewer people, even in the depths of the country, believed that the World had begun in Archbishop Ussher's calculation, on 23 Oct., 4004 BC (with Adam & Eve expelled from Eden on 10 Nov., a Monday morning). Darwinism loomed on the horizon. It was an exciting time to be awarded a cure of souls. For some, the Newdegate row was an welcome distraction from the perennial frisson against Roman Catholics & Dissenters the rich could "do well without religion", but if the labouring poor ever got the idea that their lot was the work of man & not the will of God, all would be lost. That was why every parish in the land had need of a real incumbent, a man with his social roots in the establishment. The Church of England was the country's largest employer of University graduates & required ten thousand of them. A clerical career was virtually the only one for a scholar & a gentleman; for all its low remuneration — the average benefice was only worth £181 a year — the clergyman socially outranked the lawyer & the doctor (who might be expected to treat him free). To have entered a decent living was close to all but the most gifted & persistent of the bourgeoisie, or to those with not a address enough to marry the niece of a childless dean or bishop.

Yerushalmi, Zakhor: Dispersion & Conformity in Early Modern Europe. The concomitant religious & intellectual initiative therefore that reluctant to conform with the need to deliberate, to dissimulate their beliefs, a practice which was debated by the Jewish casuists, philosophers & political theorists, who were able to draw upon an extended literature concerning the legitimacy of deception. This stretched back through Medieval theologians to the Church Fathers & was based almost entirely on Biblical precedents. The own century has produced instances of dissimulation in the face of persecution, notably in Fascist & Communist countries, even in democratic countries citizens have been presented with dilemmas of truth-telling in the face of inquisitions into their political beliefs & affiliations. The earliest target of the Spanish Inquisition were the conversos, suspected of secret fidelity to Judaism & referred to as marranos, meaning "pigs" or "unclean". The Jews could thus outwardly 'pretend' to be Christians in the words of the 12th-cent. philosopher Maimonides, who had justified dissimulation on the grounds that the law was different for persons acting under duress rather than voluntarily. Fear of loss of position or social position was frequently a potent factor in persuading dissimulation as fear of martyrdom. The doctrine & practice of mental reservation were particularly advocated by the Jesuits. The theory was most fully developed by the Spanish Augustinian Martin de Azpilcueta, better known as Dr Navarrus, in his Handbook for Confessors & Penitents which first appeared in 1549 & had gone through 81 editions by 1625. In his commentary on a chapter in Gratian's Decretum, Navarrus clearly assumed that the primary definition of a lie was "an enunciation contrary to the speaker's mind rather than a false statement made with the intention to deceive". Although not the first to enumerate the lines, he elaborated it more fully than his predecessors. The pervasiveness of dissimulation in 16th & 17th century Europe.

Political posters endeavour to seize the future by re-inventing the past. Here looms the shadow of Mr. Hatter, a woman perfectly happy not to get a decent night's sleep for 11 years, invited by holidays, for Sleom as moment recreation. Aerodynamic force is a very terrible thing; it may crush you but it is not illegally legal.

London Review of Books, 27 June 1991

Robert Hughes, Worthy if Not Critical. As a hilarious tail piece he presents his Pollock parody, the *So Hoist* that appeared in the *New York Review of Books* in 1984: "As Time's portrait toyle aptly shows/ What stench soe fills the unrespective nose?/ Excess in paint, calthurnes, full & ripe,/ It is the odeur of an Artistic Hype!/ The statue Medicis is proven soon/ No solid monument, but a Balloon!" "If don't six more years for the balloon to burst. Dealers despair, voices boom What quantity is worth a honest painter used to hard times, tell-tale clutter that it is all for the good The imitation of creative experiment into fashion is the Mortal sickness that did for Paris & will do for New York & London. Two symptoms in particular: the lust of continuity represented by the inability of so many of today's stars to draw & the reality of photo-reproduction. In the 1886 the dominant Visual code was a contract of representation, based on drawing. Deviation, experiment, was rejected against that contract. The camera recorded, & the contract obsolete. Abstraction & unreality followed. The discipline of formal investigation from nature through drawing was dead. "Reproduction is to aesthetic awareness what telephone sex is to sex ... that withdraws 'product from the original art object, the sense of 'floating among its media choices..." So says Walter Benjamin welcomes Mechanical reproduction as a liberation: works of Art are being released from their aura, their roots in the past, their ties to Social ritual. Reproduction turns passive viewing art towards the masses. But what gets left out in a slide of picture is the actual size. This means that the physical link between picture & its maker is gone.

For many people the television set has become a natural adjunct to the external phenomena as noted at the landing end outlying from experience to the receiving end.

On 9 Sept. 1983, Beverley Nichols spent the morning of his 85th birthday working on a poem about his bath. He called it "Kamplight" because his mother had told him he was born at dusk. He was finished. Rising to his feet to look at something in his garden, he collapsed & died temporarily in hospital, but died 6 days later. He managed to produce continuously to support an extravagance always ahead of his income. His tragedy was that there were too many good friends to cradle. Nor face him irresistible charm, extreme good looks, sociability, agreeable wit. He fell an easy victim to the enemies of promise. His faithful servant & outstanding cook Reginald Erskine was a kind of fairy godmother.

All images are suspect, & film images the most suspect of all. Stock footage is used to set the scene or indicate passing time of war or famine or depression or prosperity regardless of the fact that in detail it is wrong by 5 yrs & 500 miles. Contemporary attitudes, even contemporary idiom & accent are recklessly projected back to past times. Most dangerous of all, films shot on films, television programmes borrowed from previous television programmes, & each time the due information germinates plausibility. It came from the archives: it must be true, must it not?"

Vivien Lee, though adoring Larry (and Olivier, certainly unfaithful) with him in bed (is he leaving his best for the footlights?). Virginia has an affair with (stop me if you've had this one) Jack Danny Kaye. Richard Nevill's relations with his daughters.

Fiona Pitt-Kethley's *The Misfortunes of Nigel* has the eager gleam of a romance à clef. Nigel, a narcissist & boor & a snob, is over & above all, a tightwad, sponging on friends' generosity. One hopes, for her sake, that the poet Hugo Williams is not [illegible]-ious cast of mind.

Ngaio Marsh's diatribes against the New Zealand accent, a constant theme in her writings, became ever more vituperative & guerulous & made her unpopular.

Nor should be a tax on the use of the word "paradigm"
London Review of Books, Nov 11, Dec 1991

The marriage of Sylvia Plath & Ted Hughes is known as one of the most tempestuous and they separate. In the coldest winter of the century, at the age of 30, she committed suicide by gassing herself. For women readers she becomes a heroine & martyr. And the estranged husband? Because she died intestate, he inherits all the literary rights & becomes the executor of her estate. In one effort to escape from the past, he destroys the journal she kept during the last shocking months. Despite his efforts to block, censor or "correct" the stories that spring up about them, as fast as "one is disapproved, another appears." Although his own poetic career brings him all the fame & honors she had predicted, it is overshadowed by his role as her betrayer. Hughes's sister Olwyn is now the literary agent for the Estate.

The fear of malpractice litigation makes doctors afraid of undertaking less than comprehensive treatment — "doing everything you can" cannot be construed as negligence, even though it might be much more damaging to the patient than taking a calculated risk & "let nature take its course"

Another on Kim Philby is that after he fled to Moscow he was a burnt-out case, a pathetic drunk living on the memory of his former triumph — partly the KGB's fault, partly his own. In this scenario, Philby drank to drown the thought of what might have been: director-general of the British Secret Intelligence Service, Sir Harold Philby, immeasurable to exposure & in a position to have handed the British & American services to Moscow on a plate. J.J. Angleton introduced Philby & remained opened doors for him, vouched for him.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko's talent & his willingness to bend the rules kept him in the privileged circle. Talented & time-serving, he took care of number one, but he also had some care for others.

The Feminist Companion to Literature in English, ed. Virginia Blain, Isobel Grundy & Patricia Clements. The basic idea of the companion is that women are united across all gulfs of time, nationality, class, profession, religion, language, age by a unique intellectual ability. It is also assumed that women writers primarily look for other women—including women whose situations in future time or remotest place they can hardly imagine—the slightest inkling. Lurking unstated, but strongly implied by the entire project, is the contention that women understand women better than men do. For a reference book, its coverage is massive. It is a state-of-the-union gesture, most of the entries are about the same length. The editors work to a rigid political protocol which differs significantly from other reference books. They begin by identifying their subject's mother, rather than father. Husbands, fathers and illegitimate children are blanked out in droves—apparently in the spirit of invisibility of all those matters, titles & certificates of masculine biography. Take Olive Schreiner's entry for example. The Companion is silent about her engagement & seduction by Julius Cohen when she was 17, it does not record that George Henty was instrumental in getting The Story of an African Farm published. It portrays her relationship with Havelock Ellis as if it were cerebral & not carnal; as a matter of fact her expectations of Ellis died when he failed disappointed her sexually. The blanking out of dominant males runs all through the Companion: Cecil Gray, Charles Gerrell or John Chapman is not mentioned in George Eliot's entry & Lewes gets just 8 words of "a married man unable to divorce his wife". Dante Gabriel gets no more than a dismissive sentence in the de Beauvoir entry, & Nelson Algren, whom she called "my husband" & "the only passionate love of my life", is wholly unmentioned. In the Mary Ward entry the Companion studiously does not mention her pioneering settlement & play-centred

Comyns Beaumont's image of a popularly superficial reading

for writing-class women children, perhaps because these were achieved with the help of the Duke of Bedford & Prince Edward, & encouraged by the association. It does, however, go a little way to point to the "warm personal & intense bonds between women" in her fiction with an implied Sapphic dimension. (Clear Writing you hear is Mrs Humphry Ward spinning in her grave). In the genre entries, the Companion is at pains to note Feminist Pro-Masculinist bias, eg history: "Science Fiction as a modern form was invented by Mary Shelley"; the Detective Novel was pioneered by Mettta Victoria Anna Katharine Green" before Conan Doyle"; "Women took the lead among the earliest novelists". One could mock this as being like the pre-glasnost history of science, in which Russia invented everything from the flying-machine to the electric egg-whisk. Best-selling women novelists in particular are conceived as selling out & letting down their sisters by succeeding spectacularly in the men's world without transforming that world

London Review of Books, 25 July 1991

When intellectual historians do remember Dewey, what often comes first to their minds is Russell's ridicule. Early & late, from his review of Essays in Experimental Logic in 1919 to his chapter on Dewey in A History of Western Philosophy in 1945, Russell vacillates between treating Dewey as a serious opponent & a case to pity. In his The Closing of the American Mind (1987), Allan Bloom called Dewey "a big baby". Philistinism — in the form of lack of humility & a tendency to power-worship — continues to be the most frequent charges brought against post-Deweyan pragmatists. Their arguments, as Hume said of Berkeley's, "admit of answer & produce no conviction." Dewey enjoyed deliberately what I called "the epistemology industry". Philosophy professors Cornel West & Sellars once again

only minimal exposure in the media
for the fitful genuflection to Leninism.

began to appreciate the power of leftist criticism of the empirical claims
& grasp "logically possible paradoxes," & explore the Kantian lurking within
the logical positivism of Russell, Carnap & Ayer. The post-Nietzschean Recon-
struction in Philosophy (1920) is Dewey at his best & the post-Bergsonian Experience
& Nature is an unfortunate regression.

Members of the CPSU will thus be most reluctant to see their country
NOT, of course, back to capitalism, but forward to... well, it seems, capitalism!
Perestroika has let too many genies out of the bottle. The most die-in-the-wool
Communist can change his spots almost completely. They can usher in revolutions
overnight, but they have not been able to shake them free of the habit of mind
which sees the Party both as the hands which mould the clay & as the potter who
turns the wheel. The CPSU is beginning to realize that the social fabric is not
putty or plastic in its hands. The senior figures among the Nomenklatura, a retired
couple of thirty-five trying to convert influence into property before the first grade the
second comes on the market.

James Morgan, Edwina Mountbatten. Dame Janet herself is said to have
passionate, platonic attachments to Caspar "Hidden Depths." Weinberger. Mount-
batten was known as Mountbottom throughout the senior service. The only
question that still interests people on the relationship between Edwina & Nehru – is
did they or didn't they? In Jan. 1949 Nehru sent Edwina a book of photographs
illustrating the erotic sculpture on the Temple of the Sun at Konarak. His covering
note alluded to them as 'strong meat', before clearing the throat & going on high-
mindedly about the lack of shame in ancient Indian culture.

Kitty Kelley, Nancy Reagan: The Unauthorized Biography. Kelley, Millionaire
Biographer of Jacqueline Onassis, Elizabeth Taylor & Frank Sinatra, Looks

a life of privileges & pleasures. The US Treasury & taxpayers were thus cheated for Nancy Reagan's extravagant lifestyle. She "squirreled" millions of dollars from a foundation set up supposedly for her own benefit. On a different region, during Ronnie & Nancy's 30th wedding state dinners & dinner parties with celebrities & entertainers. While Nancy in her photograph on the dust-jacket of the book undoubtedly differs from her current subject. There is the same bright, vacant face which a good surgical peel-off always achieves, the same immaculately-dyed & coiffured hair, the same fixed smile exhibiting the perfect set of teeth that only an American orthodontist can fix, the same chunky gold jewellery & expensive clothes, the lacquered body, & the office cleaned, Mommy's young hands about which words can be done absolutely nothing. Full of unbookish bitchiness, the five-hundred-plus pages form an indictment of Nancy Reagan composed by the vacuum-cleaner method. Five years of "research" gives the accumulated dirt. The book has been enormously successful, justifying its author's 3.5 million dollars advance. Its more salacious anecdotes have been quoted by people in lip-smacking fashion. That Reagan & his wife begged, borrowed & spent more pin money in comparison with our own Royal Family's rate of expenditure—& at least the Reagans paid their taxes, albeit, as Kelley shows, with considerable reluctance—never rich enough to come close to the Trumps of this world, they were not grand or secure enough not to care. Nancy, in particular, was always worried about money & doing the correct things. She spent hours desperately practising how to curtsey to the Queen, not knowing—as any Daughter of the Revolution would certainly have known—that by tradition American wives genuflect to monarchs in the 19th century, with some exceptions, Presidential wives stayed in the background, sometimes even handing over their duties as White House hostess to a younger female relation. But since the American Constitution does not prescribe what a First Lady can or cannot do, there was nothing to stop Woodrow Wilson's wife from moving in on his Office when he was incapacitated by a stroke from 1919 to 1921. By the 1930s, Eleanor Roosevelt was holding her own press conferences

demanded free clothes & first-class air plane tickets, for his wife & children & insisted on his appearance at charity fund-raising & Republican Party events. Conversations with the Carters' down-home style is entertaining. She talks about "a return to dignity" in the White House & fills her state dinners with high-flute actors. On being shown her new bedroom by Mrs Carter, she ignored decades of tradition and demanded, "Where are my closets?" Obsessed with a perfect hairstyle she stood even

Forty years later, Reagan's Cabinet are sitting in on Cabinet meetings, carrying out key missions to foreign governments, & making suggestions. Will she Hillary be given her own salary & staff. Intelligent women are no longer content to stay in the background or to be remembered when husbands' careers finish. Politicians' wives will expect the First Lady a visible role as helpmate, hostess & the World for support decent & supportive humankind. Future feminist historians will expect the First Lady will have her own identity & her own cause. So Lady Bird planted environmental issues; Betty Ford backed the Equal Rights Amendment in defiance of her husband; Mrs Carter took up the cause of the mentally ill; & Mrs Bush has a private hobby with the literacy campaign. Right or not, those married to power & have the opportunity of doing power in their own right. Nancy was infinitely more hard-working than her man; she passed him notes during Cabinet meetings, scribbled his speeches down with him. She also played tough girl to his nice guy. Some of her ruthlessness, bullying & nagging campaigns to get rid of people was a case of doing what Reagan himself could not bear to do or to be done to. Behind the serene visage, she allowed him to emerge with folksy anecdotes & that charming, just-as-the-prairie-smile. She may have indulged in lesbian practices at Smith, & been an expert at oral sex at Hollywood. Perhaps she did have a long-running affair with Frank Sinatra & who of everyone else did. She almost never was deeply serious about her anti-drug campaign as First Lady. She certainly used her astrologer to deepen her influence, passing on messages from the stars to her husband

London Review of Books, 18 Aug. 1991

We took Mr John Major 18 yrs of slithering up & down Downing St's greasy pole from the moment of his election to Parliament to the eventual achievement of his goal. He has a lot to be surprised about, & so have we. He is, by almost everybody's travel-sick face he undergoes, in case one became ill.

Gossip makes the world go round
The footnotes are necessary evils, but they are often necessary.
Standards, quite the least charismatic person to hold the premiership this century.
Tory Dr Who a grey man with very little public persona. His three years of
departmental experience added up to little more than a handle through
the revolving doors of the front hall before moving on to the next stop. Mr
Bruce Anderson is plainly outraged by the way in which his real heroine
was bundled out of office. And Mayor not been Mrs T's choice, Bruce would
not have gone for his bridge instead of sacking him in Nice Cream. We
now have a P.M. who makes Wilson & Macmillan look like amateurs when
it comes to trimming. He construes his job as the strictly pragmatic one of
keeping the show on the road. Only one man of principle are capable of
true betrayal. Men without principles (as distinct from unprincipled
men) cannot be said that they never had. If only the lady had chosen
T. G. Jones (did I hear someone say "Who?") as her Chief Whip, then she would
still be in residence at Number 10.

Any anthology worthy of its name will demonstrate how slow the past is
to pass away.

If the American press is waging a campaign against American universities, aghast
by a barrage of muckraking books. Few institutions can have given their enemies
more ammunition than American universities have over the last few years. The
drastic remedies proposed go beyond any rational scheme of reform into political
vendetta & witch-hunt. America had for a decade had a confident conservative
administration which saw the academy (with certain exceptions like business
schools & religious colleges) as a stronghold of the Establishment, and of elitism with the
average voter & taxpayer. Universities are perceived to have moved far to
the left of American society in implementing Title VII of the 1946 Civil Rights

Art. Nine successive Republican administrations have studiously neglected this ordinance. It came down to our present day as it is simplest, literalest true "diversity" will encompass the "Quotas". At its most abstract, the debate touches on the degree to which ~~the~~ American culture is existing — a blanket or a quilt. At its complex, the issue is how to adjust the traditional curriculum, particularly the Humanities curriculum, to the needs of a changing stock of American humanity. Allegations that the Western Culture course at Stanford was "racist" began to surface in 1986. Like other institutions on the Pacific Rim, Stanford had to many minority students as to make the Less than-gles: This year, the college's entering class of a thousand or so broke down as 25% Asian, 11% Hispanic, 10% ~~Hispanic~~ Black, 10% African American, 1% Native American. Should not the foundation course reflect — or at least gesture towards — the diverse cultural origins & gender mix of the students obliged to take it? Why are the Great Book courses dominated by dead white males? "This is the canon making of Humanities problem." (Scientists don't agonize about their great texts being predominantly Anglo-European.) There was much agitation. Banners were unfurled (mainly for the benefit of the press) proclaiming "Get your racist education at Stanford." The acronym DWEM (dead White European male) & the neologism "Eurotrash" were giggled over at dinner parties. Jesse Jackson visited the campus & was greeted by five hundred students chanting "Hey Hey! Ho Ho! Western Culture's got to go" (the course, they insist — but it sounded more ominous than that). Incoming students now have to take "Cultural Ideas & Values", which is recognizably a version of the old Humanities with some mixture of non-canonical, non-Eurocentric material. Many Conservatives (among them Wm Bennett, Secretary for Education) thought that Stanford's President, Donald Kennedy, had caved in too readily to radical

"Enrichment Liaison Person"

"intimidation". The lay public became aware at around the same time that a branch called Deconstruction was happening in American universities. Public alarm on the subject was originally caused by the publication of Allan Bloom's The Closing of the American Mind (1987), which by that pandemonium pro-German Dad's made the New York Times best-seller list for 31 weeks. Bloom suggested that higher education was doing on the campuses what crack was doing in the streets. A tidal wave of cover stories about the crisis in higher education hit around New Year, 1991. American universities had overnight, it seemed, become totalitarian: shibboleths ruled by the merciless ideology of "political correctness" — a McCarthyism of the left. According to Newsweek "PC patrols" were on constant duty up & down the corridors of Stanford dorms to root out any hint of ableism ("oppression of differently abled"), age-ism, classism, ethnocentrism, heterosexism, lookism, racism or sexism. Using the word "women" instead of "womyn" or "wimyn" might be suspect; using "colored people" instead of "persons of color" would be definitely culpable; "Jews" or "niggers" would be capital. The canons of great literary texts had been thrown overboard. B.D.W.M.s (booing dead white males) like Chaucer & Dickens had given way to Batman, Louis L'Amour & Maxine Hong Kingston. Literature & history now worked exclusively "from below". Stanley Hauerwas's pronouncement that "the canon of great literature was created by high-Anglican assholes to underwrite their social class" was paraded as a commandment of the PC movement. Hauerwas was then a professor of theological ethics at Duke. Houston Baker was quoted as saying that choosing between Virginia Woolf & Rose Bush "is like choosing between a lovely & a pig." I am one whose career is dedicated to the day when we have a diversity of these standards." Baker is black & his career is in great shape. A shared professor

at Penn, he is the next president of the MLA. Even those canonical authors must be-
come objects of study, they must be desecrated by the new professionals—witness
Eve Sedgwick's tortured 1989 MLA Paper, "The Master's Body: Girls in Jane Austen."
The curriculum had been hijacked by theorists, by multi-culturalists, by feminist-
Marxists, by Afro-centrists, all exploiting education & the university for their political agenda. Opportunists like Stanley Fish presided over the whole mess with Nietzschean decisiveness, declaring that "there is no such thing as a literal meaning ... there is no such thing as intrinsic merit," while calling for a huge salary. Charles Sykes, *Prof Scam* is the shallowest attack on all university professors as frauds, con-artists, call-girl merchants, overpaid & underworked, producing worthless "junk think" which they exchange among themselves as research. They cheat their students of an education, the government of its grant money, & parents of their children's tuition fees. Roger Kimball, *Tenured Radicals: How politics has corrupted our Higher Education* is more thoughtful & spiteful. Certainly the practices he mentions exist, they have their pollution, they make themselves heard loudly, at conferences, & they are always good for an outrageous statement. The person he mentions repeatedly is a simple of Frantz Fanon lecturing on the "Culture Ideo Values" syllabus at Stamford) & he could well make a third-and-if-the-wedge case. But the notion that the "entire" leftist program is wrongly inculcated is false. The works of Lenin & Mao Tse Tung are not mandatory for all incoming students at Harvard, Yale, Chicago, etc. To be a white man in academia today is like being a leper in the Middle Ages." With the disgrace of Paul de Man, the status of the "post-deconstructors" has not fundamentally changed. The content of "Culture Ideo Values" at Stamford is less worrying to me than the fact that tenured or tenure-track professors do not take class-room responsibility for it: the selection-teaching

All professions have their lunatic fringe.

is formed of short-contract instructors, teachers without a future at Stanford. It's a situation typified by a professor who, too often, statistics reflected by how little undergraduate classroom work one can get away with. The MLA seems to choose its presidents for their ability to grapple with the chin. A lot of theoretical writing is mumbo-jumbo, even to academics. And so on a lot of what now passes as cultural studies ("Victorian Underwear & Representations of the Human Body", for instance.)

Three years ago the University of Chicago voted to revise its Statutes & Ordinances: all references to "he" were to be replaced with "he or she" (so mindful of the University's responsibilities to English style) with some elegant, non-latinate circumlocution. Women were to be formally & publicly included to the last dot & comma. The time is long gone, even in Cambridge, when anyone would dare to suggest that women's presence in the University is better hidden, better subsumed under an elastic interpretation of the male pronoun. There did appear to a remote chance that a change of language might lead to a change of attitude. All the same, for many of the small minority of female academics in the University, this gesture seemed quite too little too late. A few slight emphasis were not likely to make up for a full part of a university which in many ways continued to class us as "foreigners" in a native male preserve. Both women, as Just Don't Understand argues, that it is not a result of simple outnumbering. To be sure, Cambridge does have the lowest proportion of female academic staff of any university in the country (about 10%). It is not just a question of the repeated humiliation of being forced outside in the rain, a five-minute walk around the college, merely to find a women's lavatory — which is, in any case, of such inadequate proportions that no one 6 months pregnant could hope to

Boyce their ways in. Men & women speak crucially different language—Gendolecta. Most institutions Conduct their business in "men's talk". Yet the conversation as a means of establishing status; women, by contrast, use talk as a means of establishing intimacy. It is no political solace at all to have a voice in the bedroom but not in the bedroom or the seminar.

Psychoanalysis is intended to furnish, whereas deconstruction—like Marx's notion of revolution—isn't.

London Review of Books, 29 Aug. 1991

Charter 88. We have been brought up in Britain to believe that our Parliament is the mother of democracy; that our liberty is the envy of the world; that our system of justice is always fair; that the guardians of our safety, the police & security services, are subject to democratic, legal control; that our press is brave & honest. The government has eroded a number of important freedoms. Being unwritten the Constitution encourages a piecemeal approach to politics. The internationalization of authoritarian rule in the United Kingdom has only recently begun. The freedom we have enjoyed has been too dependent on the benevolence of our rulers. Our freedoms have remained their prerogative, rationed out to us as subjects rather than beings of our inalienable possession as citizens.

I try not to read these reflections of his dad, in the immortal words of the late Dr Leavis, someone told me about it.

Nicholas Griffin, Russell's Idealist Apprenticeship. Russell dismissed his early work viciously & unfairly in My Philosophical Development as "something foolish", "unmitigated rubbish", "complete nonsense" etc. He tried to present his development away from Idealism as a clean break. By the end of 1898, "Moore & I rebelled against both Kant & Hegel... I could rejoice in the thought that Bradley is really gone,

in spite of the adverse opinion of all philosophers from Locke onwards." These stones of Russell's have been repeated many times & are now part of the folklore of 20th-cent. philosophy. Frank Ramsey died in 1930 at the age of 26. For someone who died so young, his ~~list~~ achievements is not short of amazing. His work in mathematical logic is seen as a culmination of the logicist tradition founded by Frege & Russell; his theory of probability forms the basis of modern decision theory; & his work on the philosophy of science anticipates, by more than 30 yrs, the discussion by Thomas Kuhn of "incommensurability." A further claim to fame is that he was, at the age of 19, the first translator of Wittgenstein's Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, & also has been demonstrated in the recent he wrote for Mind — its most perceptive critic. When Wittgenstein returned to Cambridge in 1929, he did so in order to work with Ramsey, who, for the last years of his life acted as Wittgenstein's supervisor, despite being six years his junior. His father was President of Magdalene College & his brother Michael became famous as Archbishop of Canterbury. "Philosophy must be of some use & one must take it seriously; it must clear our thoughts & so our actions." He identified the chief danger to such an aim — "apart from laziness & wordiness" — as Mystification, & gives as a "typical piece of scholasticism" Wittgenstein's view that all our everyday propositions are completely in order & that it is impossible to think illogically. This last, he says, "is like the boy's that it is impossible to break the rules of bridge because if you do break them you are not playing bridge but, as Mrs C. says, not bridge." He wrote this in 1929, when Wittgenstein returned to Cambridge specifically to study with Ramsey. In the preface to Philosophical Investigations he paid handsome tribute to the stimulus he received from Ramsey's criticisms. In his private diaries of the time, though, he was less generous, dismissing Ramsey as a

He has achieved this hegemony by not seeking it.
a deflation & a shrinkage of expectation.

"bourgeois" thinker. For his part, Ramsey told Wittgenstein bluntly: "I don't like your style of argument." The mathematical logic that is today taught is Russell filtered through Gentile rather than through Ramsey

This can be variously interpreted as a creditable desire for knowledge, an openness to foreign experience, a predatory design on Eastern technologies, or the sort of appropriative activity by which the Orient which is depicted in Said's Orientalism as the reliably or intellectual arm of the imperial enterprise. In Rambler No 38, "The advantage of Mediocrity [i.e. against extremes]. An Eastern Fable," Johnson tells of two draught-stricken Indian shepherds who are invited to look for the amount of water each thinks he needs. One asks for a "little brook" & prospers. The other asks for the Ganges, & his inordinate desire are rewarded with a flood: "he was swept away by the rapid & a crocodile devoured him." In one place in Rasselas, a central predicament underlying oriental tales is briefly discussed. Imlac: "When I compared these men [of the Northern & Western nations of Europe] with the natives of my own kingdom, & those that surrounded us, they appeared almost another order of beings. ... By what means are the Europeans thus superior?" or May, since they can so easily visit Asia & Africa for trade or conquest, learned the Asiatics & Africans invade their coasts, plant colonies in their ports, & give laws to their natural princes." ... Imlac: "They are more powerful [than we] because they are wiser; knowledge will always predominate over ignorance, as man governs the other animals." Said shows that the technical or technological superiority of the West is another orientalist topos, but on historical grounds it is: "[Any European, in] what he could say about the Orient, was ... a radically impoverished, almost totally ethnocentric." But the technological superiority was a fact, & it must sometimes be possible

John Updike, Self-Consciousness: "Celebrity is a mask that eats into the face." Shakespeare is "a black hole into which we pour our meanings. So are Dickens & Elio-
t each other any longer, & clearly, Aeneid does.
t does. Our reach simply strikes back to the void we put it there. Distinguishes them from
Shakespeare fact without intending or seeking a racial slur. Health metaphor is de-
liberately clerical, equally racist & perhaps more incidiously so. Updike the
most copiously anthropocentric thesaurus. He requires in the fable long by
a dictionary to read; he paints the story hard to follow, but at least every word he
explained as you went along. His description of patriotism as "the last refuge of a
scoundrel" occurs not in the Dictionary but in a table-talk reported by Boswell
under Review of Books, 12 Sept. 1991

He is canvassing the support of an elderly housewife. In the background is a gaggle
of pets, desperately trying to signal to him that it is time to move on. This little
dance is my favourite memory of Ray Jenkins. In both these posts he gave
much needed sparkle to a drab & sometimes grubby government. He seemed
obvious frontrunner for the eventual succession to the leadership. Much of the
work was done sub rosa. He is a son of Martha, who likes to present himself
as a son of Mary. He knows perfectly well that the myth of effortless superiority
is a myth, but he would like persuade others that he believes it. His father was
a miner. He once arrived at Balliol carrying his father's hopes in his luggage
like a Marshal's baton. The not-so-caring, young aspirant became Chrysalis
to that butterfly.

Fiona Pitt-Kethley to her editor at Hamish Hamilton à propos of her anthology
The Literary Companion to Sex: "My first reaction was to feel like replying by
company post to various parts of male or female anatomy that are only shown
in public by lunatics or the terminally incontinent. My second was to realise that
these innocent, honest, straightforward organs should not be libelled by comparison to
someone like you. You are, it has to be said, a good deal less useful & less cap-
able of giving pleasure". This sounds like a bit of your Poet in Residence, Fiona.

The countries with the highest Aids incidence in the World are grouped in East-Central Africa. South Africa's "HIV prevalence lag time": 9 yrs; Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi & Malawi, 7; Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda & Zimbabwe, 5; Kenya, 3 etc.

Like the grafting of the prime, two Trojan horses that brought the aesthetic into the battle, to split the Middle-class European home. The young Scottish MP James Ferguson's mother advised her son a.h.e.a.d. of Westminster: "Never expose yourself, James, to be tried for a rape, for your broad shoulders will cause cause a jury to think it probable you made the attempt & your face will make it manifest that it must have been against the will." Thereafter the press had its field-day. Male MPs, most notably Sydney Smith, Paul Johnson, moved to the Restoration to oppress them. Those more dissolute joined a coterie in the Devonshire Yorkshire Cotton, Conservative & Reform Club, a place dolly tops & Falstaffian dimensions. George IV's demise sealed his gallivanting days. Kissing a Mondrian Dutch lady as a Monster reception in Dublin. Shortly after, he had noticed, on one of the ladies was dressed, "a most great good nature in the King... come back into the Presence Chamber & went through the ceremony of kissing 300 ladies more." In the Hollywood movies of a generation back, Napoleons, Moses & even Robin Hood were played by Americans, while Nero, Pharaoh, King John & the Sheriff of Nottingham had British accents. To use an American for the lord was only natural, but the hiring of Britons to play an apocryphally political kind of villain says something peculiar. Britain could not keep at home the tender supreme, the mastery of his trade. Scholars have always been divorcent if not outright vagabonds, they should Sir Michael Howard not be at Yale? Further academic honours, gold & "research facilities" (more gold) could not keep him at home. Kennedy

The essentialist ideal of the Western world was little more, though certainly no less, than a rampant penis. The number & variety of his sexual activities (remarkable in view of his back trouble) left him open to blackmail by J. Edgar Hoover.

The unfinished book rendered him with great like the Ancient Mariner is always

London Review of Books, 26 Sept. 1991

Saints may be persuaded that poetic genius is a genetic predisposition to alcoholism or manic depression, hoping that Ernest Hemingway was an alcoholic, Virginia Woolf a manic depressive, Dostoevsky an epileptic etc. Achievement does not necessarily go with good health.

We have learned Dr Rosenberg's translation The Book of J & Harold Bloom's commentary has to be seen to be believed

Yeltsin's call for a general strike met with no general response in the capital. But it mobilised the institutions that had developed under perestroika, across the board. The plotters went over backwards to avoid violence of the kind that Ceaucescu & Jaruzelski had employed, & to preserve constitutional appearances. There were no arrests, no closure of offices, a search, any close control, not even censorship. Gorbachev had suggested, that never beated like Dickens. Unable to disguise the original illegality of the coup this approach, designed to precipitate, looked merely ineffectual. The forces of opposition — the Russian President & Parliament — were left at large. There was no preparation in depth behind the attempt at a takeover. The coup was still born. Yeltsin's camp has muted the Freon channel (No 2). For sheer technical bravura — of camera work, montage, voice-over — this television leaves most Western counterparts standing. In the days after his return, it was used relentlessly to close Gorbachev's remaining space for manoeuvre. Encased within a political air-capsule for the ruling elite, Gorbachev inexorably lost touch with the forces at home, while devoting more & more of his time to the trumpeting summits abroad. This is, of course, an occupational hazard of politicians in the late 20th century, when international affairs are the arena of trivity

par excellence. Another victim of it was Margaret Thatcher, clutched too neglectfully to the party bosom after her fixation to the Paris Charter. Her condolences to Gorbachev were more than fitting. She, like Gorbachev, is a figure abroad generally exacts some domestic costs, but there is no other modern case of such a gap between external adulation & internal repudiation as eventually opened up in Gorbachev's government of the Soviet Union. Gazing too long into the pool of Western admiration, he has bound to lose his own balance & keel over. At the tables of the City in London, he had merely to bluff, & received merely (but these have the honours of the nomination). Living up to his stop-gap role with panache he quickly produced the arrangements. The plebiscitary authority of Yeltsin may mitigate this to a democratic electoral order, but not necessarily a liberal one. The media will be the main instruments of rule. Channel Five is a hint of what this could mean.

Founded by private subscription in 1841, the London Library was the brainchild of Thomas Carlyle. The Sage of Chelsea happened to be in the Library in 1875 when Brian Courtenay Hunt—the child of a famously irregular marriage—chose to commit suicide there. Hunt had asked at the issue desk for the second vol. of G. H. Lewes' Problems of Life and Mind but discovered that it was out. Lewes's wife had been his father's mistress. The young man went to the Magazine Room, where he shot himself in the head with a Derringer pistol, then reloaded the pistol & did it again. This led to a quarter of an hour's hiatus in Library services. Carlyle, who witnessed the confusion, showed no symptoms of emotion, & went up to the Reading Room, instructing the librarian to fetch the book he had ordered (Motley's The Rise of the Dutch Republic, vol. II), adding as an afterthought: "Another of Thornton Hunt's pastards gone." (In point of fact Jack Bryan was legitimate.) Unimpeded access to

Books were Carlyle's main motive in founding the London Library. The man with the Jewish nose (he is still there) made the British Museum intolerably distracting. Even when they were not noisily dealing with their fiancées, the crowds in the Reading Room brought on what he called his "Museum headache". Reading, note-taking & love-making (if he ever made love), was normally a gentleman scholar like Carlyle did in private. "A Book is a kind of thing that requires a man to be self-collected. He must be alone with it..." It may also have pleased that the underbred Italian, Anthony Panizzi, had declined to give him, as he had given Harriet Martineau, a private room to work in at the B.M. Whatever feels wrong, that one cannot read, smoke or drink whisky in, one reads the Times in one of the Reading Room's three comfortable armchairs. The core membership is pretty much what it has always been: literate top people, members of the professions, freelance writers. Books are still checked out by hand on separate slips by a prostitute. It is still something of a gentleman's library. Virginia Woolf did not dislike the London Library as much as Trinity College Library whose male exclusivity provoked A Room of One's Own. But she would not serve on the London Library Committee, feeling that they were "unsympathetic about women" & her words remain merely a token acknowledgment. In 1941 she wrote in her diary: "Last night I analysed my London Library complex & leonard told sudden terror has vanished." A fortnight later, she killed herself. H.G. Wells was responsible for torpedoing the proposed remodelling the palatial Edwardian Reading Room with its cantilevered-steel-ringed domes & the adjacent successfully for the removal of the black plastic lavatory seats & the restoration of their wooden predecessors. The conception of new library technology was fledgling in the extreme. For years it resisted P/R Xerox's wonderful invention

N Geoffrey Hughes, Swearing.

Even now the one machine they have is inconveniently placed & so hedged with petty prohibitions that copying out in longhand is usually the more advisable option. Commitment to technology has also put the library on a collision course with which it can never cope. It is only the perverse triumph of modern librarianship to cement seldom-used books (now stored in a deep repository) into never-used books. At the end of it all lies that librarian's dream: a library without books at all, a gigantic data-base, all electronically retrievable on screen. This is the slippery slope that begins with the black plastic toilet seat. The naughtiest Japanese words contain no reference to sex or bodily functions. "Bastard" which provokes mortal offence in England, is a term of manly endearment in Australia; the American preference for "asshole" instead of the English "cunt" as a term of abuse between males. In the post-Chatterley era, it was, in fact, "a shy, withdrawn, academic librarian" ("they fuck you up, your mum & dad") who took the lead in introducing demotic idioms into literature.*

Michael Holroyd, Bernard Shaw, vol. III: 1918–1950. He was not close to being as famous as it is possible for a writer to be; & without ceasing to live & work as he always had he did not try to change that. On the Nicolis last trip together Shaw jokingly asked to broadcast, & wrote letters no less prodigally than before. He continued to call himself a communist & would have preferred Moscow to take the Moscow line, but feeling that the Mussolini line was better than nothing we had. After 1933, he gave up Hosley but not Mussolini. Under all these appearances of irreducible virtuous Shaw was doubtless already feeling the beginnings of dementia. At 70 he suspected that he was "superfluous". Paradoxical as it seems, his had been a sexually deprived life. He made at 70, a marriage not lacking in mutual respect & affection but entirely sexless. He invited his fourman

...

He [illegible] that did not speak it to [illegible] seem. It has been actually a [illegible]
[illegible] Mock is creditable, it is glamour: it proves you are a writer. But [illegible]
melts, it crumbles, & the writing which has been summed up [illegible]

way he placed him. The immense crowd that welcomed Shaw at the Horse Station was actually like a great football team. Such absurdities delighted Shaw. He had always loved a funeral & had a wonderful time as a pall-bearer at Hendyló. Immediately after the death of his old friend Archer he was photographed shamelessly dancing the tango. He gave every sign of enjoying the cremation of Jane Wells. But even for the most energetic of men life cannot for ever be sprightly running. He grew deaf, & he had a renal or prostate problem which he ~~[illegible]~~ found shaming. His wife's death prompted him as usual to flippancy, till "Let him die", he said. But he could not prevent himself from crying in the street. The vultures gathered. Tempted again they demanded & sometimes got what they wanted. Eventually he began not to want to see anybody, even pretty actresses. "Keep away EVERYBODY." "If only I could die I want to die & I can't."

London Review of Books, 10 Oct 1991

Long may the *Life of Picasso* go on. It is a special kind of pleasure to be able to praise the work of a friend, & be confident that the praise had not to do with friendship. It is the story of a young man with keen eyes, born in a country outside the orbit of advanced art, the son of a mediocre painter. This young man, not quite 19, paints a portrait of himself, inscribes it three times "Yo, the King". He went to Barcelona, his fellow student at the Madrid Academy in the winter of 1897-98, "I can't one must kill the father." The idea of Picasso ~~[illegible]~~ the self-conscious heir to the Spanish tradition, submitting himself to the influence of Velázquez, Catalan Romanesque, El Greco, Goya, positive liberty, "freedom to" (e.g. to go to work in peace) is [illegible] distinguished from negative liberty, "freedom from" (e.g. from the Spanish dress code).

MIS apparently had established the custom of calling on a new prime minister

When he took office & set up in his offices on M15 so that he could start on
making his appointments. The dossiers contained the results of surveillance, telephone
taps, mail intercepts, information from agents, gossip & tittle-tattle, including the
Yes-is-closing-in-on-Peter variety. Harold Wilson called in the then head of M15, Roger
Hollis, & told him that M15 would in future have to seek his personal approval
before investigating any MP. Telephone-tapping, the interception of letters, the examining
of bank accounts were specifically forbidden. M15 dutifully ignored his orders. Wilson
did not know this, but he suspected that something was wrong. M15 put it
about that the Prime Minister was a security risk & one of his many visitors to
Moscow, they said, he had been photographed by the KGB in compromising circumstances
with his political secretary, Marcia Williams, & had then been blackmailed
to do the KGB's bidding. They leaked the story to journalists who obligingly
wrote stories hinting at the substance, while hypocritically expressing their disbelief
at "some rather unworthy attempts to find skeletons in Mr Wilson's cupboard".
Most of the national newspapers at that time (& probably now) had at least one
person on the staff who was either a security service officer, an agent
or an informer. Denis Healey, a Tory MP, described MI5 on his fellow Parliamentarians. George Wigg, a Labour MP, told MI5 all he could find out about
what was going on in 10 Downing Street.

The demolishers of the Kennedy legend have been carrying all before them in the past
few years. So frustrated is the Kennedy reputation that it is all but time for a new
school of revisionist historians to rehabilitate the myth of Camelot on the Potomac.
His appalling personal life & complaisant womanising is a domestic drama shared by
his father & by his brothers & nephews. During the second World War Kennedy became
involved with someone with Nazi sympathies, while as President he knowingly shared

a mistress with a Mafia boss who was being used used by the CIA in an attempt to murder Fidel Castro. Only months before his death he was very nearly implicated in an exact copy of a Profumo scandal then underway in England, when he shared a woman Communist German Roman with a Soviet diplomat in Washington. She was quickly rushed out of the country, but it was a narrow escape. Moreover, he was physically unfit to be President. He was far more unhealthy than either Eisenhower with his heart problems or Roosevelt with polio. Back injuries & Addison's disease. He took a cocktail of various medicines & became reliant on amphetamine injections which cause side-effects such as nervousness, paranoia, impaired judgment, over-confidence & depression

Edwin Arnis called called the Old English texts "dear old grandfather". Auden: "... Anglo-Saxon & Middle English poetry have been one of my strongest, most lasting influences". Engels read Old English literature for its rich social & economic development. Such "dinosaurian Museum piece" is something the sound-bite culture will not tackle.

Rosemary Ashton, G. H. Lewes: A Life. Lewes proclaimed his atheism & radicalism & trashed his unorthodox marital situations, though he finally changed his letters & journals. Best known as the consort & enabler of George Eliot. His own most lamentable novels which embarrassed his friends like J. S. Mill & Dickens other & Bulwer Lytton who could not say plainly what they thought of them. Conversant with German & French, his versatility & range were extraordinary. He wrote, among other things, "immensely popular history of philosophy & many successful popular science books". He had described as "grim mill of the hundred years" by a Roman poet – no other than Horace Evans – attacking him in the Edinburgh Review had given his bad review a small nasty nudge him an easy target, he was also described as outwardly ugly

except by Charlotte Brontë, who saw in him the image of her sister Emily. The note of condescension is persistent. He was "little Lewes", vivacious & entertaining in the manner of "an old-fashioned French barber or dancing master" (Charles Eliot Norton) Mrs Kemble: "He looks as if he had been gnawed by rats."

History Review, April 1991

The likely secret of a sudden, massive injection of self-esteem in an American who already seemed to possess an unwavering "Black Irishman, White European male" has always been that it cannot be an entirely welcome development for the rest of the world. The economic collapse & gradual disintegration of the Soviet Union leaves the United States unchallenged today for the present. The immediate prospect however appears to be that of a World Cup by semi-literate technicians. The A certain closing of the ranks among the older countries of Europe is perceptible. In the 1930s Beverley Nichols was told the second most popular funny man in the land after Noel Coward. Browning's "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be" turned out to be a lie. A man's, to all the respect their journeymen-hackery deserves in the public arena, far more than 24 hours. Geoffrey Household, one of Hampshire's boys, gets a school-boy crush on Beverley Nichols' daddy. Lord, must it pain Beverley Baxter that D. H. Lawrence, with his last dying breath, "would not be drug free." Agatha Christie told him: "Every woman should marry an archaeologist: the years inexorably attach her to him as she inexorably resembles a ruin."

Salman Rushdie: "Henry Miller's reputation has more or less evaporated, & he is now looked to be very little more than the hapless pornographer beneath those sociological overpaid. Orwell saw such improbable depths." Miller wrote Brenda Venus 1,500 letters all of them embarrassing & sexually explicit. He seems to be better performing...

Professor Henke was, according to the memoirs of his students, in bed. He is an eternal adolescent, captivated by athletes & the mercy of women who, fooled by his books, sent him crude photographs of themselves. He famously detested Miller & Anaïs Nin... "she was the ugliest of his gang." Miller was a sponger, a liar & a hypocrite. He wrote perpetual begging letters, asking for a dollar a week from all his friends, or a pair of second-hand gloves. His next-door neighbour was from Valencia, T.S. Eliot. Despite his self-promotion was indefatigable. He had the nerve to nominate himself for the Nobel Prize for literature, drumming up support for his cause. If Hitler had read Tropic of Capricorn, he firmly believed, it would have "spared the world a good deal of trouble." Anaïs Nin's more explosive pitch: She delivered to Hugh a letter addressed to Miller, in the wrong envelope. Then she sent Miller a letter to her husband. Petrified of discovery, Miller hid on the upstairs balcony of his upstairs flat, expecting to be grassed down by Hugh. Whenever the doorbell rings she had rushed up the letter on purpose, & the middle-aged waitress was designed to convince Hugh that she was not sleeping with Hugh Miller. Miller's last wife, a Japanese girl called Hoki, married him only for a week & bigamed him consummation.

He was born in an age of high infant mortality, to the point where it was considered fair to expect two surviving children, & one had to bear 5 or 6.

In Cochin-China, Sir Steven Runciman picks up the trail of André Malraux engaged in illicit antique dealing.

It is entirely in character that for the first time in his life that Sir Walter Monckton was sharply reminded of his good eye & then pretended to read them with his bad eye, in order to enter Miss Vidany's service.

Hey, Professor Higgins (emancipated) can't a woman be more like a man? He thought and whor is that she doesn't want to be. Very, very few women have sex-change operations.

At a book launch he was photographed with the author
sibling to Boswell & Strings Johnson

Many men, on the other hand, are seeming to have penises amputated, breasts enlarged
& vaginas magically fashioned by a kind of surgical origami with skin & tissue. Here
is a passage towards the end of Jan Morris's book Conundrum in which she discusses the
pride she felt, when a few weeks after the rearrangement of her genital furniture, a taxi-
driver pinched her bum (or perhaps he whistled at her, I've forgot which). This, she
concludes, proves she really is a woman. Maybe not, all those years later, the novelty has
worn off & Jan Morris is merely being sexually molested. But at the time she couldn't
have enough of it. Caroline Cossey, née or nee Bacon (Cossey, author of My Story,
does not like to be known as Tula. She dyed & lived as a woman for several
years before the operation, working as a scantily-clad "showgirl" at a Soho club
("how was I to conceal my penis?... one of the most successful operations involved
sticky plaster"). Desperate for money, pay for a breast implant, she allowed
herself to be picked up by an Arab prince. She had her £5000 for a private audience.
After a stint as a G-string-clad stripper in Paris, she became the pampered mis-
tress of a fat cat in Kuwait. She "tapped up" the cat's cash & "very quickly
pursued her through the sheets" & Rome: "To be getting the sexual recognition that for
years I had been denied was amazing". And all this before she had even had her parts
altered. After the valium & libido were installed, she plunged enthusiastically into almost
every other glittering opportunity. Adopting the nom de plume Tula, she became
a Page Three girl, etc. She was fatefully exposed by Rupert Murdoch's malodorous
News of the World. She fell in love with a succession of international millionaires.
C. S. Lewis, At My Door Before My Diary 1922-1927 "Plenty of metal in the
language, I see"? There is indeed plenty of metal, but it needed to be smelted
biographically before it can left among so much fecund rum slag. His disciple
Hooper has been accused by A. N. Wilson of being committed to "reducing the historical
in
(1987)

The Battering
The Semi-literate shopgirls who rabbit on incredibly & ignore their Betters customs are
"an indictment of the educational system & the values of our time" (Keith Waterhouse)

Bad Enemy of C. S. Lewis! After years of dissertation & defensiveness, Hooper comes out
with the opinion that Lewis & Mrs Moore, a personable but dominant Irishwoman
in her early forties at the time of the diary, were probably physical lovers. Mrs Moore,
who received only a small & precarious hand-out from her husband in Dublin,
established an ascendancy over Lewis; who is abjectly dominated. With similar
household background, his success in his clerical finals is most commendable.
On Bestiality from the first found his tutor deeply unsympathetic. Mrs Moore took his
College responsibilities seriously, & started Lewis on suitable fodder for his age.
Christianity does not get much of a look-in.
Of the hero & heroine, you can't deny that she made her mark. Poor Nancy, Bush
& Drayde ... with reality she can't have had much to do before?

In the 19th cent. American etiquette got an unfair rap in England from Fanny
Trollope in her Domestic Manners of the Americans (1832). Dickens, in his American
Notes, expressed revulsion at the speed & sloppiness with which Americans consumed
their food at meal time. According to John Kasson's Rudeness & Civility: Manners
in 19th Cent. Urban America, by the first of the century new etiquette manuals
were appearing at the rate of 5 or 6 a year. In 1870 Manners on the Handling of
One's Nose: "It should never be fondled before company." Amy Vanderbilt,
Complete Book of Gracious Living; Ethel Post, Blue Book of Social Usage (1945). Not
to say Miss Post & Miss Vanderbilt are no longer with us. A new arbiter of taste Miss
Manners — aka Judith Martin, the wife of the editor of the Washington Post, wrote an
essay entitled "I Think: Therefore I Think" the magazine Miss Manners's Guide for
the Turn-of-the-Millennium, 742 pp. P. J. O'Rourke, Modern Manners: An Ill-
Mannered Book for Rude People, 280 pp. "Cocaine is an ideal, the only truly perfect
drug"; "Be sure to empty your bowels before you shoot yourself. Gore from a

The hell of Christian doctrine was a hideous reconciliation of opposites. It was filled with fire, but yet it was black dark & over its barren waste blew the rose of Black Sea. The difference between the left-wing מרכס readers & the right-wing ones (may maybe the difference between "laughing about" & "laughing at" bullet wound is very dramatic. But there's an element of low comedy & excrement."

Frederic Jameson, Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism. Post-Modernism, the word that launched a thousand seminars at the ICA. & perhaps the word that launched a thousand lectures at the ICA. However an idea was a meal ticket, Post-modernism is: According to Jame, what unites the assorted "post-Modernism theorists" is their animus against Modernism, especially Hyperxism. Postmodernism corresponds to a "third stage" in the development of capitalism. James follows the Belgian Trotskyist Ernest Mandel's nomenclature by labeling this "Late Capitalism", the previous two being 19th-cent. industrial-mercantile capitalism & 20th-cent. Monopoly Capitalism. He admits that "Late" in the sense of "final" may be a misnomer & does not predict imminent & total collapse — admirably so! "Late capitalism" is the era of electronic communication & high-tech production, of multinational corporations & the globally integrated economy of mass media & the culture industry. If "revolutionary class" — the subject who would really make capitalism "late" — have inexplicably gone AWOL. Jameson hedges around this question repeatedly

Richard Bourne says in "The Excitement of Friendship": "We let ourselves out precisely it seems, to strangers with a host of varied friends can we express ourselves to the fullest" Wendy Cope's brilliant "Lonely Hearts" wryly depicts the forlorn & the eccentric who bleat for success in the personal columns: "Gay vegetarian whose friends are Jewish/... Can someone make my simple wish come true??

(Literary Review, May 1991)

Stop publishing & be saved! By the time I arrived on the literary scene in 1960, publishers were amiable people who always got drunk at lunch, never answered letters & preferred to talk about things that had no. The places of those pleasant idle

She has seemed to be interpreting the entire world & its story.
Baron Michael de Stempel: "I am not a gentleman, I am a nobleman ... Your calling is honourability". Marxism as one of a thousand brands on permanent sale in the supermarket of ideas.
Incompetents are now taken for unpleasant inconsistents who manage to conceal their silences in occasional bursts of fictious activity. We are becoming a nation of side-trips, spins & quick-money merchants who concentrate on hitting a jackpot. The only trouble is that we don't appear to be very good at it. Practically none of the publishers ever addressed the Hayes; they much prefer to spend vast sums advertising their wares to people who had an interest in books, like the ignorant & semi-literate readers of the Sunday Times.
A.J.P. Taylor - Letters to Eva. His television lectures, made without notes & shortly before cancer, must have been a lifetime's thinking to the study of history. Yet for most of his life Taylor lived in a state of profound depression: "I am weighed down by my failure, by two marriages. I have two women on my hands, both praising me all the time ..." He left his first wife Margaret after her habitual infidelities (with, among others, Dylan Thomas), yet returned to live platonically with her when the second marriage failed. For many years he carried on a sporadic liaison with the Hungarian historian Eva Haraszti. Finally, in 1976 he married her & she left Hungary to live in London. Even then there was some mystical bond that seemed to tie Taylor to the now ailing Margaret. He insisted on spending every weekend with her, to Eva's dismay. Socialist expectation of the imminent revolution has always been like the belief of Jesus's disciples in the Second Coming, & as chimerical. Waiting for Godot is never the mark. He just raves at the news that "Mr Muggeridge" has received a message from the spirit world that like Muggeridge, Kierkegaard also distrusts television. He remarks, with unusual contempt, on Greene's habit of losing over his shoulder at Cannes if cameras don't record his departure from Nice. He was very bitter that he was passed over for the Regius chair. His attitude to conventional honours was that of Groucho Marx towards membership clubs: that he felt vaguely relieved that he had not been offered the O.M. "Eden didn't

But he sat back to watch all his prophecies come to pass one by one. "Soon the Germans will find Green Tree in half an hour, Stein pondered, decide, after a fortnight can handle up in a month's time." We are open to suggestions from outside.
the dictators; he merely made faces at them."

Harriet Martineau, Selected Letters. To Henry Crabb Robinson: "I could no more write freely to anyone who persisted in keeping my letters, than I could talk freely to one who insisted on taking notes." My conversation

Hideo Bonnoji, Pink Samurai: The Pursuit & Politics of Sex in Japan.
equipment-enhancing implements especially imported from Korea. To increase sex-
tourism: "When you leave home, you leave your shame behind."

The last Cecilian, a Member of William De Morgan's Shadowplays Herself Baked
in cabaret & mystical people should drift in the street.

During his visit, Nicolae Ceausescu insisted on a food taster & conspic-
iously washed his hands with alcohol after shaking hands with anyone including
the Queen. For Elena it was meeting Mme Mao, than all the luxuries of her power,
that was important. She took the lesson to heart.

Yevtushenko is a "Soviet poet" made for export to American universities.

Literary Review, June 1991

The Poet Laureate's failure to come up with a poem celebrating the Queen's 65th
birthday prompted Charles Osborne to ask if we really need a Poet Laureate,
arguing that it is unreasonable to expect Muses "poets" to produce verse for
royal occasions. Fair enough "poets" seem able to produce verse under any circum-
stances (if the time of Betjeman's death, I argued that the post should go into abeyance
for a time out of respect for his memory: Larkin was not quite good enough, & nobody
else has any good at all. Jingoism is a permanent feature of Muses politics;
Stalin: "How many church choirs?" The only Bishop Sergii: "Because we train
a man for priesthood & he becomes a general!" Because Stalin killed those
Rabbis & Kisses instead of allowing them to take your place in the Kremlin, they have

In Calcutta a bride's dowry can take the form of the rights to a small square of pavement.
Long may he reign on Mount Olympus. Few of them, even of the rich, pass from one generation to the next
required virtue they never possessed. "You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs,"
as Brooke used to say until he became an egg.

Jane Emery, Rose Macaulay. Her first love was for Rupert Brooke. She resigned herself to the celibate life. She was called "a Eunuch" by Virginia Woolf on her first best-seller Potterism. In 1918, working as a civil servant in the Ministry of War, she met Gerald O'Donovan. She was 36, he was 10 years older & married. Her intermittent secret life with O'Donovan, she believed, stained her as Born God. She was only to return to Communion in her last 8 yrs.

Sir John Pope-Hennessy: "Mrs Berenson ... had a talent for helping people at other people's expense." Most of the academic world is a vast sea of conformity, & every time a wave of theory hits it, all the fish try to swim in its direction.

Literary Review, July 1991

There used to be a cruel joke that those who could not make the grade as creative writers became book reviewers or critics; those who could not make the grade as book reviewers or critics became teachers of English literature at University. In an age when practically no "creative" writers make any sort of grade, it might be truer to say that it is chiefly those who are plainly unemployable as primary school teachers or local government health inspectors, or British Rail booking clerks, who decide they have a vocation to write creatively — sometimes novels, more often short stories or what politeness requires us to call poetry. Those who cannot make the grade as journalists (and when one looks at those who do, it may seem inconceivable that there are such people), become advertisement copy writers; those who have lost even the ability to write copy for advertisements become advertising moguls or directors.

Alma Mahler was an intellectual's nightmare — but a nightmare who always got her man.

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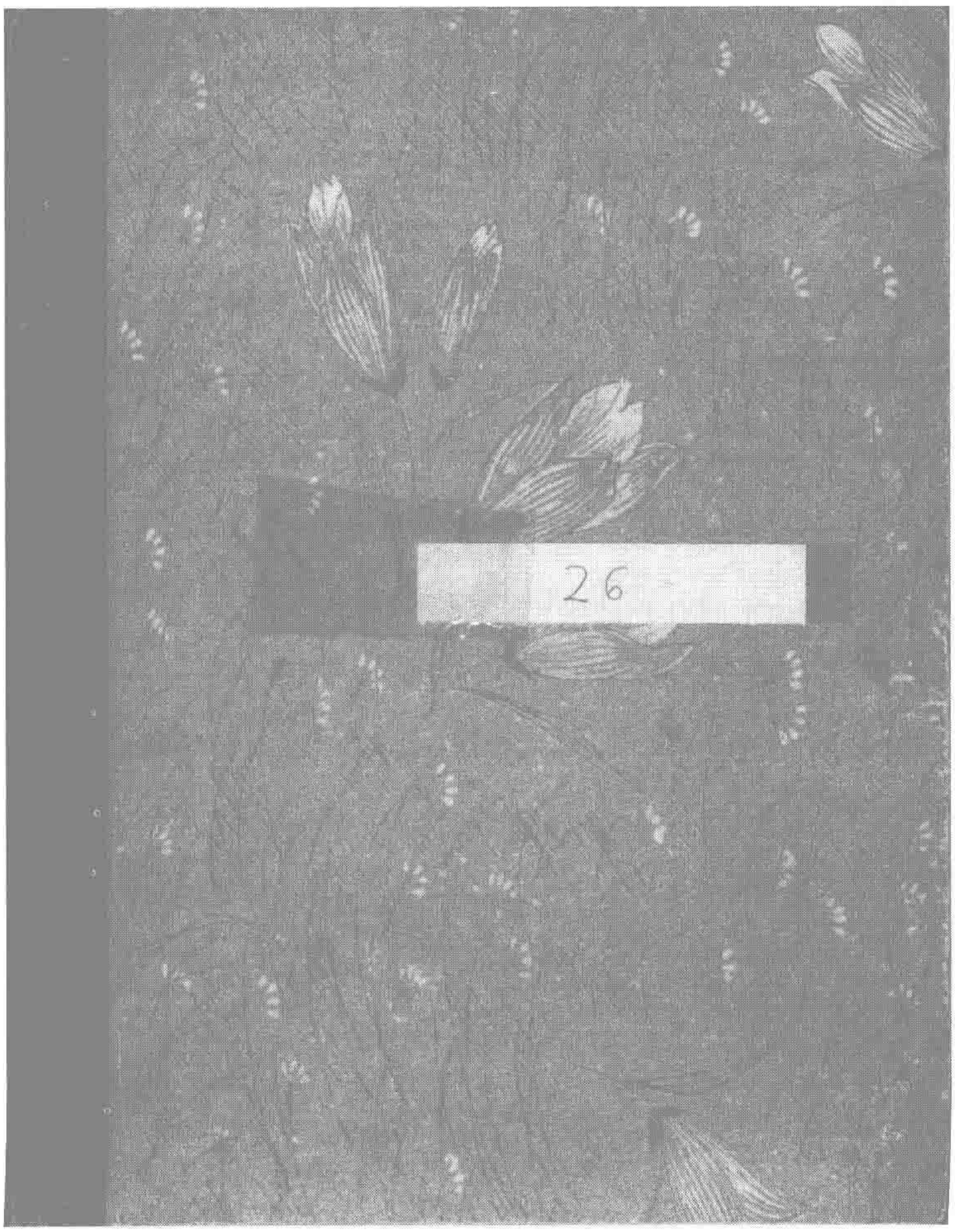

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the ideal approach would be to read both ~~Both~~ books in tandem.

Literary Review, July 1991 (continued))

Alma Mahler's life's work is nothing if not many faceted. The 3 she married were the composer Gustav Mahler, the architect Walter Gropius, & the poet & novelist Franz Werfel. Among her lovers were Gustav Klimt & Oskar Kokoschka. Though married to two Jews, Mahler & Werfel, she could be vilely anti-Semitic. In her eyes, Mahler & Werfel were honorary Gentiles, whose genius excused their Jewishness, until such time as either displeased her. Mahler wrote to his future bride, insisting that Alma gave up her composing to be "my wife, not my colleague." And Alma agreed. Kokoschka told her she must make her choice "or my great gifts will perish miserably." Alma had an abortion & took off with Gropius. Kokoschka consoled himself with a life-size doll, modelled on his faithless muse. When she was displeased with her husband Werfel she would dismiss him as that "small, bald-pated corpulent Jew." She was not portly. From the head down, "she was simply a bag of potatoes". Yet she could still seduce. Hauptmann told her that in another life "we two must be lovers. I must make my reservation now." To which his wife added darkly, "I'm sure Alma will be looked up there also" Werfel & she ended in Los Angeles & kept company with other exiles, including Thomas Mann. Werfel wrote the best-selling The Song of Bernadette, & Alma continued to make pro-Nazi pronouncements, to which her friends turned more or less deaf ears in defense of her good looks.

an actress is not necessarily a glamour-puss. V
"clothed nudity". V
An assassin's bullets made & saved Kennedy's place in history
Lady Louisa Mountbatten had the hots for black men. The two names that are usually mentioned are Paul Robeson & Jawaharlal Nehru
Lady Anne Somerset. "Dr badware, the ops where probability failure is that Elizabeth I did a Yes Sir." But intacta? What about les demi-vierges, a species alleged to have been remarkably resuscitated by AIDS? pps Wodham-Smith in her biography handled Florence Nightingale's allegations to masturbation
The term "actress" has taken on so many other meanings that most female performers today prefer simply to be known as "actors". By the time of the Restoration, when women were finally allowed to tread the boards, the stock criticism held against them was that they were not acting at all but merely displaying themselves. At the same time (& proving that the male critics always have their cake & eat it too), it was further held that, anyway, the art of dissembling comes as second nature to the weaker sex. An object in a free-for-all sexual market place.
"Shoot the Women First" is an informal instruction allegedly given to recruits for Germany's anti-fascist squadrons of the Red Army Faction's female members. The usual assumption is that women can't or won't use a gun.
"If you dislike Australia so much, Mr White, why do you stay here?" asked a Sydney socialite of the type Patrick White loathed. "Madam," he replied "if one wishes to look down rats, one must live in a sewer." Hobbes

Take first or second prize
Hen Fallon political finger-painting & harsh retribution
a bluestocking & a bean-eater

He'll come within a whisker of winning the Booker Prize.

Poor old Ruth, known as "the White man's burden," was a snob.
There is no ~~il~~ *Literary Review* Aug. 1991
There is no immediate threat of a Marxist mathematics, but the study of English literature attracts mild people easily imposed upon by bullies. All University English faculties should be closed down & the present generation of bejeaned, sweatshirted & leather jacketed pseudo-proletarian jokers is wrinkled out. Geoffrey Hughes *Swearing*. If these editors were the issue Private Eye's "bum" would be as offensive as "fuck", the taboo word that necessitated bowdlerisation. According to the OED Supplement the first record of "cunt" is 1230 AD in a London Street name, "Gropecunt Lane". It seems that the Norman French title "count" was abandoned in England in favour of the Germanic "earl" precisely because of its phonetic similarity to "cunt". This effect of state censorship of words uttered on stage was to exchange directness for innuendo. Shakespeare went to the French for his pun; in *Henry V*, Alice shocks the French Princess Katherine by teaching her the words "foot" & "coun".

Sir Bernard Ingram's problem was his absolute identification with the P.M. His small-c aside was assumed to be her *ex cathedra* opinion. He became the extension-cable & wellies.

There's tons of shit stuff lying about, & "accessible" material will always attract the Hello! tourists & package junkets. A preoccupation never suited to a hobbyhorse rider.

Did he jump or was he pushed?

Like Ms CXIIX's boss, he is not very good, but he's quick."

a series of lessons in Personal Grooming.

Iron Ogres. Women Who Kill: "A murderess rarely an ordinary woman driven to extremes." Push a woman too far, & she is likely to stick a knife in your or poison your dinner. In Welfare States of Mind divorces, fewer women murder their husbands.

Literary Review. Sept. 1991

The first news this month will be the arrival of Everyman's Library on September 26th. Founded in 1906 by Joseph Dent, it ran to 1200 titles & sold 20 million copies before disappearing in the 1980s, when it was bought as part of a job lot by Weidenfeld & Nicolson. As John Carey writes, the Library has played a vital part in the great tradition of 20th Century self-education. The revived Library starts work 48 titles. Nearly all the titles are out of copyright & it must add prodigiously to the cost to commission these Modern introductions. See it really add to our enjoyment of Wilde to learn what Professor "Terry" Eagleton thinks about him."

Hit-perennial Mami, Love & Asthma. When he ought to be beating your pillows, you are liable find your tires busy in his face in the pillows not in ecstasy but in agony. Attacks do not always benefit by a prone position. Otis & his friend Joe Fellows embark on their would-be career as playwrights never realising the monologue that their bronchial tubes are capable of performing. Yesterday's stars are alive & well in their graves — Dr. Finnoky I shall merely add that nothing more fatal.

Her parents in the family saga. Did Khalil Gibran ever write a more wearisomely serene sentence than "Mothers to the grave"

Glimpses of "A Cheap's Regime" & borrows Evelyn Waugh's phrase for his title.

Roy Porter, The Faber Book of Madness omits a letter written in 1860 by a resident of Northampton Asylum: "Dear Sir I am in a Madhouse & pray do forget your name or who you are you must excuse me for I have nothing to communicate or tell & they I am shut up I don't know I have nothing to say so I conclude Yours respectfully John Clare." Ezra Pound, "I will not go mad to please you; instead he pleased himself, pleading insanity to avoid execution." "Madness is an umbrella term": the word is now used more often to protect society from incleming rather than a license to exercise clemency — it invites the political abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union under Brezhnev. Porter draws attention to the contemporary fracture of Freudianism: the truth of lying on the couch is that one in 6 American analysts has slept with his patients. Confronted with a patient who has cured herself in order to test her therapist's love for her, it was daring not to cancel treatment.

Julia Blackburn, The Emperor's Last Island — A Journey to St Helena After Napoleon's death an illiterate Corsican priest, Vignali, removed his genitalia; his testicles are now in a Museum somewhere in the South of France, while his penis was auctioned at Christie's in 1968.

Thailand has deteriorated to being a universal knocking shop, first for American GIs & later for European & Australasian tourists.

Groucho Marx or Oscar Levant on Doris Day's "second-hand virginity." My conclusion would have to be, à la Goldwyn, "a definite maybe."

for the clerisy/sum of £7.50.
entries Mind Blight, Scum & Make Sense.
Liberal Review, Feb. 1991.
Brig-bang
Been kept to comm-
entary, I send the book

With the Fabians & New Society gone, the New Statesman is about to follow them down the same blighted. The general secretary of the Fabian Society made all the usual noises about "modern" facts and programmes to make them pay to sell their tainted wares. The leadening woman [Mrs T.] refused to heed my advice, lumbering us with the Brezhnev incumbent [Ted Hughes]. Maurice Cranston defends Rousseau against crypto-tyranny & deals with the notorious "forced to be free" passage by pointing out that it is a man who is forced to be free in the prescription, not men in general. Leonid Alfred Sawyer: the Jim Jamous 1920's Hendley Case. A young Egyptian playboy lay dying outside the door of Suite 42. His French wife Nelly stood at his side, gun in hand. Marguerite Fahmy dumb to all digest. Her haemorrhoids are crucial. Two days before she killed her husband, Marguerite consulted a doctor, who blamed her condition on her husband's same
"constitutional taxes".

Lounging ^ cowpoke, pack on back & pad in hand, ears & eyes at the ready, As his 80th birthday approaches, Burroughs finds himself finally both wealthy & respected. To join that great pantheon of the Lucky Retired, those eternal pensioners of the timely, one's decease from on talent.

Richard Pipes, The Russian Revolution 1899-1919. Ref Rasputin, long credited with insatiable libido, is expected as the possessor of shrivelled genitals: "like those of a very old man." Even of a passing likeness to the French emperor, Kerensky struck Napoleonic poses & pretended to paint them.

impassioned speeches. Lenin said the Bundism for Stalin. He was a cold fish & a coward. In his youth, his reluctance to admit authorship of one pedestrian pamphlet cost a friend 2 yrs in exile. Prior to his retreat behind the Kremlin walls under the protection of Latvian soldiers, the sniff of putsch was enough to send him running for border re-dressed, respectacled & thoroughly bandaged. Tsarina Alexandra: "Russian loves to feel the whip."

We encounter between Shaw & Lu Xun: the one a self-indulgent old gasbag from a smug safe country, playing at social rebellion, the a Saint & a hero, for whom the game was all too real.

Literary Review, Nov. 1991

The Swedish Academy which sits in judgment on the literature of the world has long been a standing joke for the depths of its humorlessness & wrongheadedness. It was to spite Graham Greene that the very mixed talent of Wm Golding was honored in 1983, & after that there will be few who could those ponderous Nordics in anything but the greatest derision, not to say contempt. Perhaps Nadine Gordimer, the worthy South African, has been "conferring benefit on mankind" all these years. All I know is that she has never made me smile. William Trevor, Anita Brookner should wait for Burgess's return on the Nobel bombola which try to catch the eye of any passing Swede. The literary novel is in need of more stick than carrot.

Gide lost no more & more dull with his famous "classical" style. *Le style blanc*. In 1924, Gide's illegitimate daughter, his only child Catherine was born to

Hume: "Nothing appears more surprising to those who consider human affairs with a philosophical eye, than the easiness with which the many are governed by the few, & the implicit submission with which men resign their own sentiments & passions to those of their rulers."

Elizabeth Jane Howard Cazalet, the daughter of Sidie's best friend the young ex-mistress of Rupert Brooke. For a while Elizabeth had stayed with the Keliers & inveigled Sidie's young lover Marie Allgrati to take her child but eventually she chose the 55-year-old Sidie, who added to Elizabeth's father that was "in part" responsible for her condition in an adventure in heterosexuality. Boyden among other things, argues that male homosexuality is the best way to protect female fertility! He insists that open homosexuality was widely tolerated & exploited for women.

Gore Vidal, A View from the Diving Board carries a note of World-Weary disillusionment which is music to our tired European ears. "Today's serious novel is apt to be a carefully written teachers' text about people who teach school & write teachers' texts for dwindling classes." "In Universities have established an hegemony over every aspect of literature — except the ability to make any."

12 Gerry O'Connor, Not Shakespeare: A Life. He has privileged access to the secrets of Shakespeare's heart. In a virtuoso passage early in chap. 2, for example, Jonathan Miller, Margaret Drabble, Barbara Everett & Judi Dench manage one appearance each in the space of 6 sentences. The Life adds up to little more than the embarrassing confession of an autograph hunter.

Sir Philip Sidney achieved his apotheosis by dying for Queen & Country. As he lay on the battlefield with a musket ball in his thigh, he insisted that a dying

a lots of malice aforethought.
Generally cast as a charming playboy. In reality he was a mighty fine

Common soldier should be supposed the only available water, magnanimously declaring, "My necessity is yet greater than mine". Or so the legend has it. Even in the elegy he composed on Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh had to admit that he had not asked him while he was alive. Ben Jonson said that this romantic figure was so severely afflicted by acne that he was "no pleasant man in appearance, his face being spoiled with pimples". His career would have posed still more difficulties if Elizabeth had had a glimpse of some of his more obscene prose works which he produced for private circulation. In these she featured variously as the man-eating Queen of Ebene with "exceedingly red hair & small eyes"; a middle-aged Arena who exposes more of her body than is seemly; & a handsome Venus who was "a wanton wanton's heavily made-up face". In recent years, some writers on the Left have been arguing that the traditional working class no longer exists; armed with many a demographic pie-chart, they insist that Socialism must adapt itself to the affluence of a middle-owning proletariat.

Literary Review, Dec. 1991.

In talking of good, better or best in this context, we are in fact talking about lesser or greater evils. It is only American lack of judgment which keeps all the hideous rubbish in circulation which only American stupidity & American Money insist in identifying as "modern art". My book, Memoirs has reached the top of the Evening Standard Bestseller list & has climbed from 18th to 10th to 6th on the Sunday Times list.

These days we are seeing the rise & rise of Computer-Assisted Technology as social historian. Five Years after the War, we were still supposed to carry our wartime identity cards. Food & petrol were still rationed. The Ministry of Food was just getting round to abolishing the five-shilling limit on restaurant meals. It was not until 1953 that Bevelo came off the ration. Not until 1957 were exchange regulations for British tourists to New York, for which they were allowed a magnificent £100 or 280 dollars. For the long grey post-war years Britain remained in the clutches of civil servants & petrifying stasis, reluctant to give up one shred of their not-so-brief authority.

Populaire is much more class-specific than popular, & Culture far less unclassy than in English usage. The Maisons de la Culture were set up by Gaullist Minister for Culture André Malraux.

For more than 60 years, for fear of the Russians, Genghis Khan was a non-person. Now, Genghis Khan is once again the hero figure of Mongolia.

For 17 years Lawrence fattened up Jessie Chambers' spiritual joy by leading her to believe that their "Sad & Fine" love should be asexual; then in Nov. 1909 he told her he needed a woman to sleep with & that he could not afford prostitutes so that the following month she allowed herself to be used in "the great experiment of sex". Lawrence's perverse form of disparagement was to accuse an opponent of being less than a man: "he has no balls" he would say triumphantly in critical debate.

Aristotle said that those who are dull-witted or who have abnormally large heads do so by way of being addicted to sleep. World historical figures are often thought to be immune to the need for sleep. Frederick the Great, Goethe & Napoleon were famously frugal sleepers. Thomas Edison boasted that he got by on only 4 hours of sleep a night (not a terribly impressive claim considering that he took frequent naps during the day). Leonardo da Vinci experimented for a while with sleeping 15 minutes every four hours, which totted up to a mere hour & a half of sleep a day; yet he abandoned this regimen after 5 months when he felt all thingy about the head. Ronald Reagan was mocked for being overly fond of sleep & dozing off at impolitic times (as he did during an audience with the Pope) & fell asleep while waiting to commit suicide, snoring loudly. Epimenides, after inventing the Liars' Paradox, called it a day's work & proceeded to sleep solidly for 57 yrs. In New York, insomnia is rife. The causes are manifold. Buildings whistle; pre-War plumbing sings in full throat; construction sites illegally swing into action in the small hours; there is howling & gibbering in the streets all night long. Though New York is at the cutting edge when it comes to insomnia, the rest of the world seems to be marching in the same direction. More drugs are taken to induce sleep than for any other non-recreational purpose. Scientists have determined that the typical person in the 18th & 19th centuries slept a total of 9 & ½ hours each night. By the 1950s this figure had fallen to between 7½ & 8 hours. Since then it has declined further still

Sleep clinics are now burgeoning; there are some 140 in the U.S. alone. Montaigne: "We read that King Perseus of Macedon, the prisoner at Rome, was brought to his death by being kept from sleep." When a plague of insomnia descends upon the town of Macondo in Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, the first thing to go is the villagers' memory.

Orwell on Orwell's Books, 24 Oct. 1991

The expansive title of Orwell's first authorized by the widow to emphasize her rejection of *The Unknown Orwell* by William Abrahams & Peter Davison, who later de-authorized by her to indicate disapproval of Crick, must have much to her annoyance, had images good enough to ensure that he was able to publish it anyway. Paperback Rdr. Michael Shelden's *Orwell: the Authorised Biography* is based on the discovery of lots more papers & interviewing more people. The craft of plain style is hard to learn; it calls for at least as much rhetorical skill as explanation. In Orwell, it is sometimes, paradoxically, so artful as to seem mannered. He is, in his way, a Vanity Fair writer. Orwell's father, another imperial servant, had decided his son would have to make his own way. The Chinese would amply provided both a poem: his son's expensive education must in part be paid for by its envisaged victims.

Memories of My Youth in Old Prussia, by Marion Countess Dönhoff. "At first only did the Nazis penetrate no further into the world of the poets & intellectuals, but they took pride in rejecting it—partly out of

snobbery & partly because they did want to be thought pretentious". She left Friedrichstein one evening & travelled to Westphalia with a steam of other refugees. She made a stopover at Bismarck's estate in Pomerania. Bismarck's aged daughter-in-law, a famous wit & charmer, was expecting the Russians. She did not intend to flee. She had had a grave dug for herself in the garden, because she realised that once the Russians arrived there would be no one left to do it for her. The two old ladies dined together, drinking "bottle after bottle of superb vintage wine". Next day the Countess Bismarck waved her guest goodbye.

Bf pub in 1986

Annie Vincent-Buffault, The History of Tears: Sensibility & Sentimentality in France. It was front-page news in the U.S. recently when George Bush blushed away a tear as he described how he had wept while deciding to unleash the air war in the Gulf last January. "Like a lot of people, I've worried a little bit about shedding tears in public or the emotion of it," he told a convention of Southern Baptists in Texas, but "as Barbara & I prayed in Camp David before the air war began, we were thinking of those young men & women overseas. And I had the tears start down the cheeks, & our minister smiled back, & I no longer worried how it looked to others." As his voice broke, & he paused to dab at his cheek — "Here we go," he said, to an embarrassed grin — the audience burst into applause. Newsweek attributed the change to a beloved & frequently Misty-eyed Ronald Reagan, & contrasted the welcome to Bush's public show of emotion with the treatment accorded to Senator Edmund Muskie when he cried during the 1972

New Hampshire presidential primary, or the more recent case of Representative Pat Schroeder, whose tearful withdrawal from the primary campaign in 1987 was widely ridiculed. However, it seems premature to proclaim a new era. Henry Mackenzie's Man of Feeling. Shedding tears while making love is not the same thing as weeping at the loss of a lover—or even in defence of your wife, as Hamlet did in 1972. The candidate's wife attempted to enliven a dull moment with some campaign reporters by proposing that they tell dirty jokes. Even so far as it is conventionally thought more apt for women to weep and for men to swap dirty jokes, the gender reversals in the case of Muskie's tearful may have intensified the impression of the Senator's unfitness. Weeping is a natural act, but it is also, as Darwin remarked, a "habit", a subject to much individual & cultural variation. Babies seem to cry from the moment they are born, but weeping & crying are not, strictly speaking, the same: in The Expression of the Emotions in Man & Animals (1872) Darwin observed that very small infants don't actually shed tears when they cry. While "the Indian elephant is known sometimes to weep" in despair "& captivity or at the loss of a companion, the African elephant remains dry-eyed. Since many monkeys don't weep, Darwin speculated that humans must have acquired the habit after breaking off from the non-weeping anthropomorphous apes. But after learning to shed tears for me—or at least some of you—have been learning to restrain them. Among Englishmen, the practice of shedding tears is strictly limited—"it being thought weakly & unmanly by men to exhibit bodily pain by outward

orgn." "Savages react copiously from very slight causes." Even among the civilised nations of Europe", tears fall at different rates: "in some parts of the Continent the men shed tears much more readily & ~~promptly~~ freely". Darwin appears to have forgotten the brief vogue for manly sentiment in the early years of the nineteenth century — though how many Englishmen actually imitated the tearful poses of Mackenzie & Sterne is an open question. Weeping for others, however, is not the same as weeping for oneself. Though Darwin did not speculate on the social usefulness of the distinction, he reminded his readers that the taboo on crying did not extend to "a mode of expression of pain" at the suffering — or, for that matter, the happiness — of another. The Dying Harley in The Man of Feeling conforms to this rule: while he appears ready to weep at the slightest occasion, his really copious tears are elicited by the experience of others. A young prostitute, abandoned & starving, sobs when he feeds her a crust of bread, & bursts into tears again a page later at the gift of a half-guinea: alone in his room after the event, Harley characteristically weeps at the recollection of her weeping. Tears in Mackenzie's novel are contagious. The very frequency with which tears are shed in The Man of Feeling is one reason why modern readers are more apt to laugh than to cry over the novel. The fewer tears you shed, the more they are charged with significance & value. To weep too readily & too often is to risk the charge of superficiality. Shedding tears on one's own behalf, or on behalf of those whose interests one has been known to manage. A cynical little dialogue in

Chamfort's Maximes: "A: Would you believe that I said Mme de — was
for her friend, in the the presence of 15 people? B: But I told you that she
was successful at eleventh; she undertook." Access to the judicial archives
from 18th-cent. Parisiennes who had been abandoned by their lovers sought
redress from the courts, they included male uses among the "full set
arts of seduction" that had been employed against them. In this division
dangereuses, however, Talmont reports to Mme de Tourbel Merteuil his attempts
to seduce the Présidente de Tourbel: "I had proudly counted on the help
of love, and letters through a bad state of mind, too perhaps, because of the effect
of the difficult & continuous attention which I gave to everything, it
was impossible for me to cry." Tears were increasingly restrained & privatis-
ed: the spectacle of open & collective weeping, of tears that circulated in a
visible "network of communication", gave way in the 19th cent. to scenes of
solitary emotion. While the tears shed by an 18th-cent. theatrical audience
or a Revolutionary crowd might partake of a "general sensibility"; weeping in the
19th cent. tended to be associated primarily with women & the uncultivated. The
Ministers of the opposite sex, Flaubert complained to a correspondent in 1854
was ruining literature. Reporting on the successful performance of a Bainé play
a decade later, he commented on the "beautiful weeping ladies of the 3rd row, such a
display of handkerchiefs that one might have supposed oneself to be in the laun-
dry". The author of an 1870 guide to Paris wrote about "the primitives"
inhabiting some quarters of the city, "those frank labourers & honest bourgeois"

"We are moved to an incontinence of tears by the unfortunate of a few heroines on the boards ... They are so happy in their despair."

John Wain, reviewing Brenton Jones, Bellini Bellissimo in his Cautionary Tales, "... like many of the Upper Class, he liked the sound of broken glass." To this last line is appended the footnote: "A line I stole with shameless daring from the Brig.-Commander Maurice Baring." Though in his time Baring was the author of some 60 books, he is probably known to most people only through this Hoss. Foch: "Here never was a staff officer in any country, in any nation, like Major Maurice Baring". In 1930 he settled in Rottingdean, in a house which a French critic described as having "un raffinement d'un autre âge, et ce luxe discret que les Anglais appellent confort." Virginia Woolf was less impressed. When she stayed for tea: "2 dirty postmen to hand anchovy sandwiches, which I loathe & so had to put in my handbag." He had begun to suffer from Parkinson's Disease. His epitaph was 18 to 20 languages.

London Review of Books, 21 Nov. 1991.

Geoffrey Hartman, Minor Prophecies: The Literary Essay in the Culture Wars. "The tension between two kinds of critical style, that of the learned specialist & that of the public critic (a.k.a. man of letters)." He himself, for instance, is a learned specialist, a pro, whereas the likes of George Steiner & Frank Kermode are "public critics" (a.k.a. reviewers, journalists), given to needless complaints about the "obscurantism" of technical

a card-carrying Post-Structuralist

language the professional is obliged to employ.

R. W. B. Lewis, The Jameses: A Family Narrative. F. O. Matthiessen had mined the huge family archive in the Houghton Library, in effect as a Jamesian, the only permitted person other than Leon Edel, who enjoyed special privileges & came to "practise the James-studies as a Collegium". Edel encouraged his colleague Gay Wilson Allen to write Wm James: A Biography (1967). The younger brothers Wilky & Bob were mute & inglorious beside William & Henry & Alice; their revolt against the practical world led respectively to miserable service in the Civil War, to incompetence & to crazed diabetic binges. Henry Lewis, lauding American democracy & the companionability of the horse-cars, described arriving into town from St John's Wood with an omnibus full of English men: "I never once caught the eye of one of them. If I ever come near doing so, an instant film would surge up from their most vital parts, if such parts there were, just as a Newfoundland dog suddenly surges up from its cold & moistureless sea, & wraps the organ in its delicate, frisky, most chastening fleece of stars." William wrote home from a difficult summer school he was teaching at Chautauqua in 1876: "I've been meeting minds as near & helpless that it takes them half an hour to get from one idea to its immediately adjacent next neighbor, & that with infinite creaking & groaning. And then they've got to the next idea, they lie down on it with their whole weight & can

Get to father, like a cow on a door-mat, so that you can get matters in no
out with him." ... Still, slibness is not all. Weight is something, even cow-weight:
the boom that greeted Henry when he mounted the stage gives the premise of his
play Guy Domville in 1895 was a fatal negation of his trouble; & the crowning
failure of the New York Edition of his works in 1908 threw him into a near-
suicidal state of hypochondriacal lifespan.

Good literature is more often than one might suppose: it waits patiently on
the shelves, it cannot attract attention to itself, & it could wait till
judgment day without being found & proclaimed. The perniciously known
nothing that sets writers to restless undertaking in those days before Larkin's famous
"1963" & would find it hard to re-imagine. He could vanish into the vagueness
of his poetry like a squid into its ink-cloud.

Arkady Vaksberg, The Soviet Mafia, tr. John & Elizabeth
Roberts. ~~Roberts~~ George Matviekhin, the chairman of the Russian Central
Bank said that the development of business culture in the Soviet
Union was criminal. Most commercial banks' capital came either
from the Communist Party or from organized crime — the Mafia — or from both.
Many of their operations, especially in the foreign currency area, had to do with
the placing abroad or "laundering" of funds accumulated by these organizations.
They included Creditbank of the Menatep group, one of the biggest banks-cum
-trading companies begun by a group of young men who had once been leading
members of the Komsomol. They were engaged in transferring Party funds abroad;

Her activities can be likened to those of Nazi officials towards the end of the last war. They pushed funds overseas in order to provide for themselves after the loss of the war. The directors of the banks, the joint-venture companies, etc. now constituted an essentially new criminal class. Many of the new banks opened up with millions of roubles of family capital: they have very quickly acquired fine, handy premises in Moscow's best streets, the stocks of Mercedes or BMWs for their directors. How have they made it so soon? The speed of Brezhnev together with his family was there for all to see. Expensive presents to one's superiors on occasions of anniversary—or without any excuse at all—were given quite openly. It was impossible for an ordinary citizen to get on without them. In 1987 one edition of the popular investigative programme Vzglad was banned because it had shown an interview with Galina Brezhnev, Leonid's daughter, in the course of which the surviving relict of the first family displayed an expensive necklace which she claimed to have received from Raisa Gorbachev. When the latter was hoping to "open her husband's career path to Moscow". The urgent question here is, where did Raisa get the money from? The Mafia will be one of the legacies of the old system. Artists, intellectuals & scientists were drawn into Party-Mafia circles. Those who prostituted their talents most flagrantly were most flamboyantly rewarded. Shcholokov, for example, handed out tickets giving guarantees from traffic violations to his artist friends.

Denis Healey, a politician who long ago established that the hobnailed boot

can be wielded with just as much delicacy & skill as the épée, once said & drew then the Good Fairy she attended his birth had generously endowed him the three graces of charm, intelligence & good looks. He is then reported to have added: "What a pity that the Bad Fairy made him a Tory." "Time to declare my withering contempt for practically everybody in politics except Mrs Thatcher." Some toe-curlingly embarrassing details of their married life. Dr Owen's emotional revelations are silly & sloppy. In the famous phrase about the death of Little Nell, it requires a man with a heart of stone to read these records of amour without bursting into helpless laughter. Although the Sunday Times urged John Major to bring fresh blood into his Cabinet, it seriously proposed that David Owen should form part of the team-as Health Secretary, the great man looks like remaining on the outside looking in, & languishing without office.

A Better Class of Person, the first volume of John Osborne's autobiography, is a ferociously angry, rancorous book. His father worked in an advertising office, a semi-invalid for most of his son's youth; his mother was a barmaid—or, as she puts it "a victualler's assistant. If you please." "The badges that misled me" & misunderstood many". He is not lovable, he knows; generally he'll be hateful then. John in rep have described in terms like these: "No fancy salaries, no fine folk." He'd rather a doghouse than a warm sofa where his timid pickle might be imperilled. The Record Owl. Almost a Gentleman shows that fame made Osborne savager than ever. It is

the Tory Party rejects its past when it is a political burden.

essentially a book of intrinsic topics. His attitude to his audience: "Their pleasure inflames my prejudice, their indifference stirs my rage." His portraits of Edwardian contemporaries are bilious. Freddie Ayer had "an organ-grinder's monkey's brain". Women came off worse. Here the reader's mind may go back to A Better Class of Person. Early in his acting career Osborne worked with Lynne Reid Banks. Bordering on "unspeakable", he saved up his hatred until some time later at an improbably posh party in London I passed her a sandwich. I had taken some trouble to insert among the smoked salmon & cream cheese ... a used French letter. The unbelieving expression on her face ... has fixed for ever for me". An unbelieving expression steals over the reader too. In this new book falling upon Gill Bennett's newspaper obituaries, shredding them line by line, he denounces "this whole rotting bodge of lies & invention ..." At this point, the prim reader may wish to pray, the queasy reader vomit, the prudent recipe consult the label thus.

Sic

London Review of Books, 25 Dec. 1991

Sonia Brownell was in no position to ignore her first husband's wealth. In the autumn of 1949 she was on the verge of losing her job at Horizon.

Mrs Thatcher herself clutches on to a form of political existence more as a menace than a force. She is leaving the House of Commons — & even a countess will seem like an extinct volcano in the Lords. Only one member of the present Cabinet can show a clean pair of hands. But no one can say that Maggie was a slave to consistency. Of Thatcherism considered in a dim re

to bury Ted Heath, Who will dance on the grave John Major is hoping to prepare for Margaret Thatcher? Both came from lower-middle-class homes, & the Broadstairs carpenter's son considered he had to have prepared the way for the daughter of the Grantham grocer. But Heath is where to find resemblance ended. From these routes a Tory outsider Heath struggled by every means to make himself the complete insider. He became, through Balliol, the Army, the Whips' Office, Buck's club, & effortless ease to a succession of the grandest of the offices of an establishment. Partly by the accident of gender, Mrs Thatcher was barred from the inside room in the male world of politics.

Ferdinand Mount's novel Of Love & Asthma is more informative about asthma than love. Non-sufferers could usefully consult it for instruction as to the pillows, inhalers etc. Its narrative, which allows Mr Jos's origins in a post-war sanatorium — with self-deprecating allusion to The Magic Mountain & of asthma as the poor man's consumption. It settles into a rake's progress of the asthmatic & chain-smoking Joseph Dudgeon Fellows.

London Review of Books, 19 Dec. 1991

Our Constitution & Freedoms have the reality, as well the splendour, of the emperor's new clothes. A constitution is the set of arrangements for the division of state power. A Bill of Rights is a set of ground rules for the protection of individual rights. The view of the state as the natural enemy of the individual permeates the liberal vision of human rights. But the flag of human rights is a flag of convenience, & all the loudest of the voices delivering the message to the Communist bloc.

* London Review of Books, 13, Feb 1992, p.5: The most salient example: ever since C.S Lewis's death in 1962, HarperCollins has been bringing out works from the hand of a C.S. Lewis Almost a Week. Almost a Fortnight. Now comes C.S. Lewis writing a lack inconvenience he are endeavouring in [illegible] content & style the first of these is the [illegible] story "Forms of Things Unknown", the most notorious in the shoddy & semi-obscene 1977 pornography The Dark Tower.

belongs to a nation which has wrecked democracies & financed both state & insurgent terrorism from Argentina & Chile to the Philippines & back to El Salvador & Nicaragua, & whose own political system is shot through with jobbery & corruption, is conveniently best forgotten. The argument that a Bill of Rights can't be had, 2 hundreds, it might help. Reminds one of what the Jewish woman said when she offered chicken soup to the dead man.

In the beginning AI (Artificial Intelligence) promised much: but after time it has become apparent that it can only deliver what its programmers have already programmed into it.

↗ Under Fire: An American Story by North & Von Novak

The chairman of the Task Force to combat terrorism, Oliver North reveals, was the Vice-President, George Bush. The real master of Irangate was not the doddering Reagan, but his younger & more energetic Vice-President. Bush did North go to get funds to sustain his beloved democratic force in their struggle against the elected government? He went to Stroessner, the dictator of the Argentine, & to Noriega, the corrupt tyrant of Panama. A millions dollars a month for the Contras came from the King of Saudi Arabia, in which there is not a whisper of democracy, & from the Sultan of Brunei, who locks up his opposition & then maintains his palace with 372 bathrooms.

16 Hardly had I sequel to Gone with the Wind been published from the new came that Galsworthy's Forsyte family was being given an extended life-span which fastened fast the characters into the television age. Already any number of hacks, licensed & otherwise, have helped to further the adventures of

James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, Jeeves, Billy Bunter & Charles Foster; not books, [illegible] Flashman & Rochester's mad wife. In a class of their own come the surrogate writers who are authorised to enrich the leftovers of a dead storyteller. The late, prolific Alistair MacLean ("Ach, any idiot can write a book") did not bequeath a hero who became a household name, but he left a clutch of story lines which, for one reason or another, he did not wish to flesh out himself. Four of his plots have now been worked up by the near homophonous Alistair MacNeill ... In this world there are occasional legal hiccups. One such, not so much a hiccup as a cardiac arrest, recently befell HarperCollins. The complaint was that readers of books based on MacLean outlines were being misled by the layout of the jackets into thinking that these were the works of the Master himself, since his name appeared in the traditional bold condensed type above the title, with that of the real author in less assertive type below. MacLean died in 1987. His revived series of hi-story lines proved successful enough to account for more than half the income of the copyright settlement in the year 1990-1991, a matter of over £500,000. Understandably, Alistair MacNeill was negotiating for more than his original 30% share. Alistair MacLean made £ or £20 million in 30 years and had 18 titles. She sold over a million copies (to against 13 James Bond books in that class). He wrote "airport" books before the airports were ready to receive them. He defined, & survived, fashions in popular fiction, avoiding bad language and the "sex, snobbery & oddism" he denounced in Ian Fleming. His characters

~~~ was sense of personal slight.
Neither E.M. Forster nor Virginia Woolf is a cult of mine.

were never clubland heroes. He acted as little as today any eccentrics as he did for those publishers' editors, who were anxious not improve his non-existent style & even to tighten up his plots. If he practised these niggles, could wride irresistible "page-turners" & make their fortunes, why did they not do so? When Maclean's good fortune & start hunting when television had not yet turned the nation into "couch potatoes". His Moses sold 250,000 in hardback between autumn of 1955 & the following spring & picked up £30,000 in film rights. His life would have been one the thriller but for the exception on the screen a femme fatale in the shape of Marcelle Georges, daughter of a French music-hall entertainer. Always on a valuable target, she took down any Calvinist inhibitions he may have retained & wrecked his marriage. She held him a bezotted slave & there were tales that she charged £5000 for sitting on a button & £10,000 for cutting his hair. In the divorce shake-down, he paid her £400,000, which was regarded as a cheap settlement she got through the money quickly & died in squalor.

London Review of Books. 9 Jan. 1992.

F.P. Thompson: "Historical conferences on 18th-cent. questions tend to be places where the blind lead the blind. The 18th century is as it happens a time when "blind" had a favourable sense — witness the century's most famous declaration of the sanctity of custom, Burke's lament over the Malbrouck of the French Queen in the Reflections: "All the pleasing illusions, ... which, by a bold & well-wrought fiction, softened into duty & made even private life run in a generous train:
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He has been doing well without doing good.
好人方華無往而勃無法 3.16.32

Ruth Bernard Yeazell, Fictions of Modesty: Women and Courtship in the English Novel The "Modest" woman must not be fully resistant either to heterosexuality or to contemporary marriage arrangements (the two being conflated): A true servant of Diana would be a monster. A girl must seem sexually ready and charmingly ignorant, her resistant innocence supplying the object of the male pursuit. Thus she is a plot all on her own. Conduct books constantly urge women to notice that immodest women are less attractive than modest ones. But snakes lie hidden in the grass. For one a woman aims to appear being attractive through modesty, her modesty becomes a trap. "Under the cover of modesty, in other words, a woman who knows her own desires always threatens to take secret charge of the scene."

After the intoxication of liberation comes the hangover. Each person dreams happy; jobs, being dictated by the cost of basic needs, have gone up. Must we prepare our shelves for another cache of letters, stumbled across like Dead Sea scrolls, every decade? Even Kingsley Amis reacted for his memoirs until he has entered deep of his enemies. Only John Osborne has progressed to Vol. two without being strangulable.

T.L.S. April 26, 1991

Jean-Claude Schmitt, La Raison des Gestes dans l'Occident Médiéval. The Maori is: a gesture is a statement. We do too often assume that what has to be said must be said in speech & writing. Our mistake is understandable; for it proves

Concepts in growing abstraction in thought, & language is "software", then each generation's "education" once over, will tend to think in more abstract & linguistic terms than before. The innumerable, intimate, spontaneous, optional gesture-systems of Medieval ancestors are thus irrecoverable. "Didactic" from *didaxi*, the teacher's forefinger, is one of innumerable, able debts owed by language to gesture. Rhetorical gesture must fit the subject-matter: avoid the excesses of actors, or even of lawyers. The early 13th-century Bolognese jurist Boncompagno da Signa's book on rhetoric condemns: the cough to attract attention, the scratching of the nose, the smoothing of the hair behind the ear; the raising of the eyes appears to suggest the speaker is seeking inspiration. Thirteenth-century books of *Conscience* or *Maintein* had a lot on what bodily movements young women could & could not allow themselves. They were not to stare men in the eyes, or keep dogs on their sitting. Young ladies, said the *Ménagier de Paris*, must not thrust themselves greedily on the dish before them; put food back on the plate that's been in their mouth; dip food in the salt-box; pick their teeth with a knife or polish it with the napkin, put their elbows on the table, etc. Actors (*histriones, mimi, joculatores*) are a prime example of *bad* gesture, gesticulation. Late 12th century moralists distinguished between *histrio* & *orator* — a "rehabilitation des jongleurs". Since Isidore of Seville's *Etymologies* had said (wrongly) that *histrio* was derived from *historia*, these skilled historians could surely not all be bad. The celebrant at Mass was described sometimes as "the tragedian" ("tragicus noster"), & Easter drama moved down cross-fertilize between liturgy & acting. At St Liturgy

Francis, jaculatorio Dei, is needed for evangelism. "La ~~liturgie~~ liturgia est la gesta de ~~Jei~~ Fidelium"

Before the 18th century it was indecorous to make a living out of poetry, afterwards it became almost impossible to do so. Alexander Pope is the hero of the story, in some versions of Greek Street mythology the villain of the piece. Later writers such as Keats & Byron benefited from the relatively short-lived prosperity of poetry, but it was Pope who made a killing at the original launch date. Moreover, he can be accused of practising a sort of inside trading, since he manipulated two rivalries, & in effect, acted as his own publicist in the second half of his career. His use of the new word "copyright" in 1732 antedates by three years the first example discovered by the Supplement to the OED. He had no lifelong agent, yet he avoided the traditional author's empty purse. Jacob Tonson had done well out of Shakespeare, Milton & Dryden. Formerly the grandees had dispensed patronage; now commercial Pope, the first great artist to dispense with patronage. For some Marxists Pope's capital crime seems to have been his wealth, amassed to be sure out of the South Sea Bubble. Unlike Voltaire, Pope owed nearly his affluence to shrewd investment or land-deals. Swift had written a poem about the Bubble, claiming that "fools chiefly hurt the wise are rescued". For others, the offence must be that Pope apparently placed the weak — too feeble to be worthy Tonson or the formable recruit Dennis (Swift's hack Pope drove out of business, like Herman Ticknell's creditors Mr. Mercer (Swift's agent) & their siege to pay

one by Mary Cubbidge, Lizzie Boscawen or Charles David Ferdon, Robert the Lofty 18th-Century Book Trade. (The Lydell Sims collection at Oxford in 1976, revised and edited by James McLaverty). Novels often inadvertently capture in smaller format, between/within their text, e.g. the facsimile of a page of Sir Charles Grandison. One might ask how far the decline, or even smaller, size scale to which fiction was confined may have operated as either cause or symptom of its initially low ranking in the literary hierarchy.

Rochester is the finest humorist in English, perhaps in any literature. Evelyn Waugh had had for him there had been no fall of man. 59 Germans, 86 Italians, 30 French, 1 Burmese. A fat lot of Dorsets, "Dulce et Decorum Est" describes its topic: "A pity maybe ... something that is ordinarily seen as compelling for its unpleasant appearance & clumsiness of style by writers who don't have, have ajar & the better part of valour, is selected, represented as having its own pain & grace."

The arrest in late 1952 of Kremlin physicians, 6 of them Jewish, on fabricated charges of plotting to poison Stalin. Not to ignore an announcement from Ujazdów Concentration Camp set off a wave of anti-Semitic hysteria. Stalin portrayed himself to the outside world as a leader of Western sensitivity to Jewish needs. Thus, he was the first world leader to recognize the State of Israel, to which he duly sent military aid. At the same time, certain Jewish writers & in Soviet prisons were savagely attacked & the press for their "rootless cosmopolitanism" & tacky patriotism. A particularly

interest for Soviet Jews was the Trial in Jan. 1948 of Mikhoels, who was both a symbol of Jewish culture & a leader of Soviet Jewry. Later, both Khrushchev & Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, said that Stalin had had the final say in the form of a car accident. Following a trial in May 1952, 19 of the [Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee] leaders were accused of a "Zionist conspiracy" & executed. Jews in Eastern Europe also suffered. In Nov. 1952, 4 leading members of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, 11 of whom were Jews, were tried & found guilty of a "Zionist ~~party~~ plot" to overthrow the Czech regime. Rudolf Slánský, the alleged ringleader, was forced into a dramatic confession: Stalin was fiercely anti-Semitic, especially towards the end of his life. Several of his political opponents, in the 1920s, such as Bukharin, were Jews, with superior revolutionary credentials & intellectual abilities. Speaking to Khrushchev, Beria in Stalin's ear, often spoke to him in Georgian in front of the others. Given Stalin's paranoia, it is hardly surprising that he could not tolerate the idea of "heir apparent" even though he had cultivated the next in line for the first time since 1939 when his protégé V. S. Abakumov was suddenly dismissed from his post as Minister of State Security. Many took extra words, cannibalized them for his own purposes, then ideologically Hegelian, style allowed the ghost of the original meaning to shine through clearly enough. Take the German "Bürger", far more than its dramatic English counterpart "burgher", has retained the connotation of citizenship. In French, "(le) peuple" & "citoyen" may both denote a citizen, but since

I have just read an article entitled "Bürger & Bürgertum
in Contemporary Politics" in the current Foreign Affairs

1789 their meanings have diverged. German has retained the same word for both.
the civil circle of the late 19th century was the "Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch".
To call oneself a "Bürger" in Germany between the French Revolution & the
Third Reich was both to define one's social status & to express a political
aspiration. In the Nazi State, party members tended to usurp these
functions, & in the post-war Soviet Zone "Genosse" continues to supplant
at least the political connotation of Bürgertum; but the Federal Republic
has no more typical phenomenon than the "Bürgerinitiative", or citizens'
action group. As a social category, Bürgertum is close to the old-fash-
ioned British middle class, which includes the educated professions
("Bildungsbürgertum") from the French bourgeoisie, which has
come to be associated with commerce & narrow-mindedness. The cultured-
looking "Weltbürger" in Goethe's day was no less a Bürger than the ill-
informed "Spießbürger" or "Spießer" (literally, pike-bearer). Like
the analogous "Philister", Spießer has extended its meaning from the
town-&-gown conflicts of the early 19th century. The Bürgertum is narrower
than the English middle class, embracing the skilled artisans, shopkeepers
& minor officials. The liberal historian Meinecke's famous indict-
ment of the "unpolitical German" was taken up by countless disillusioned
intellectuals of later generations, many of whom opted either for Socialism or for
Nietzschean nihilism in order to repudiate so-called bourgeois values — even
though Marx & Nietzsche were both archetypal Bildungsbürger. Historians

He looks for Shelley; believe still me in on this selection.
He would be a better than Coleridge

have tended to blame the Bürgertum (middle class) for the paucity of Bürger (citizen). The most distinctive peculiarity of the German middle classes was that they read & listened to their false prophets more diligently & with a better preparedness to panic, than their cousins, fools in other countries

Joseph Chamberlain sent his son Austen to Trinity College, Cambridge, Heine's forcing-house for prime ministers. Lloyd George summed up Neville's limitations as "a retail mind in a wholesale business". He used to describe Churchill as a "good debater of nursery topics". He would make a dress out of the skin of his mother in order to secure his own privacy.

The Arts Council believes itself entirely responsible for the power to help restore the state of art & excellence in British art. Elliot Books pictures, symphonies & plays become products, readers & listeners consumers. We can be judged into purchasers by market research & management efficiency & sales potential.

The locus classicus of an early experience to read for praying silently is I Samuel 1:12-15 (Eli observed Hannah's mouth).

To exhibit in jeunesse doree owned more & the Gotick palaces than it could else. A. J. Liebling pointed that he could write faster than anyone who could write better & write better than anyone who could write faster. Don't you recognize me with my clothes on?

TLS, May 24, 1984

Max Brod's roman à clef, The Enchanted Kingdom, was written immediately after Kafka's death & published in 1926. Its protagonist, Nowy, a German writer from Prague, is a flatteringly self-portrayal of the author (Brod by women, writers by literature.) His eventful outing to the cocaine & literary circles is very sensuous & points at every possible opportunity. His character Greta, an intimate friend of Nowy, is a portrait of Kafka, "a saint of the times" (his phrase) - late romantic symbol is "the precise opposite of Kafka's". Greta is compared to "Leo-Tze & Buddha, "all founders of religions". Yet without Brod, the scandal over Kafka's name today. Immediately after his friend's death, Brod had his 3 novels published. Here was the reaction. Realizing that he must engage in all-out artillery preparation for his friend: the preface, the dissection of the letters, the slim portfolio, & the Brod's conversations with Kafka, above all his interpretative notes. All these texts comprise a clear cliché of the image evoked in The Enchanted Kingdom: Kafka is first & foremost a religious thinker, der religiöse Denker. Following Brod, Kafkaists have become hagiographers. Ewige Wanderer has a paragraph: Janouch's Conversations People love to forget that he published a book during his lifetime & he was still conscious the hours of his death-bed. Kafkaology systematically removes Kafka from the domain of aesthetic. Even Camus doesn't speak of Kafka as a novelist, but as a philosopher. In the 1950s, Brod's idea of Kafka's affinity with Kierkegaard was

but forward Bodi immediately protested: Saint Sparta has nothing to do with decadence. Kafka by can see why in Kafka's novel but allegiance cannot be expunged from the text by reference to prostitutes outside country to do with sexuality. All that time there is money, no possibilities for a bachelor: Married women of good family, or women = "easy virtue" of the lower classes: shop-girls, maids & [illegible] prostitutes. Rentier's sense of the beauty of the unexpected meeting of an umbrella & a sewing machine, Max's hat & the nice distinction they are to each, the [illegible] magic of light hot radiation from their contact

The Soviet Writers' Union differs markedly from Western authors' organizations in disposing material benefits to control & exercise disciplinary controls so rigorous. It was founded, in 1934 and at Stalin's first, to replace Soviet literary groups & bring all writers under close political control. Stalin had many of them killed, but enriched some of the demonized residue. No Soviet author can make a living from his profession without a Writers' Union card. By a combined Kornutskaya ("stick") & carrot mechanism, the Union has been an outstanding success, marred only in the post-Stalin years by the anti-social behaviour of certain thought criminals (e.g. Pasternak) who have planted the mines & had to be gagged & expelled. Meanwhile the ordinary, law-abiding member has continued to enjoy access to apartments, dachas, foreign trips, holidays, cars, medical care, exclusive food emporia & whatever. These impressive perks — but impressive only by Soviet standards — are

available to some 10,000 readers on a scale determined by the individual's literary record as interpreted by high-placed border-functionaries called facetiously called "the Literary Generals." Hedrick & Carol Smith, Inside the Soviet Writers' Union, 303 pp. Here is a smart tailoring establishment exclusive to writers & artists up-market name "The Helios". Even material perks are doled out on a grading formula determined by senior Management: slacks for the eminent, musket for the well-known, fox for the noted & lumble rabbit for the rank & file. Exemption from military service for registered writers is another significant item. An officious militsioner (policeman) or even KGB operative may be pacified into acquiescency by the mere writers' Union card; unless, of course, the writer in question has put himself on the hit-list of naughty boys. From its headquarters, in Moscow's Vorovsky Street, the Union spreads tentacles into the most distant steppe & tundra. Errant scribes were disciplined by an elaborate system of reprimands up to the supreme sanction of excommunication from the Union as tried on Solzhenitsyn & others out, which might then be handed over for more severe punishment by the secular arm. Meanwhile (since writers are paid by sheer tonnage) huge print-runs of ultra-conformist multi-decker novels, authored by the literary generals at the apex of the Union's apparat, were appearing briefly in the book-shops before being whisked away en masse — unread, unsold, unlamented — to the pulpery. Not in the Soviet Readers' Union, but the citizenry can vote with its wallet; & it would rather put its copecks into banslated Agatha

Christie Brown's plaster mask from the latest literary Cancun farce leaves it impossible, these days, to write anything about the Soviet Union without risk of being overtaken by the March events.

Among the secrets to have emerged from the woodwork of what used to be East Germany the nastiest for by far concern the activities of the Stasi. Not that the GDR's security service had ever been perceived as a self-effacing organisation skulking in shrubbery. As the Party's sword & shield it had established a presence in every area of society, & any citizen who stepped out of line, or looked as if they might, soon felt the length of its arm. The celebrated slogan from "We are the people" to "We are one people" is the brilliant coup of an expatriate East German.

In 1987, or thereabouts, a new verb entered publishers' jargon: to Salinger; that is, to erase from an author's MS — usually a biographer's — the work of an investigative historian — all quotation from previously unpublished work. Once forbidden by jealous copyright holders to quote anything from letters & other primary matter was a catastrophic blow to certain biographers & historians. Such was the outcome of the case involving J. D. Salinger & his self-appointed biographer Ian Hamilton, which came to a head in the US courts 4 yrs ago. Thereafter, the ruling applied symmetrically across the globe. To go against it meant to risk being sued for breach of copyright.

The copy of a fifty-odd-poly "Venus of Galgenic", said to be 25,000 years old, given to the Princess of Wales in Bratislava last week, made an ironical

The huge cemetery of Dead White European Males.
DWEMs

comment on her status as the world's foremost fashion goddess. These saggy-bosomed artefacts, unearthed all over Europe, were the world's first goddesses, but they brought about woman's downfall—what Engels called "the world historic defeat of the female sex"—by arousing male jealousy of their powers over sex, food & food.

One of the earliest references to what must surely be silent reading occurs in Achilles Tatius's novel, Leucippe & Clitophon (late 2nd cent. A.D.): "I got up & strolled about to find the leisure where I could read her, holding a book & lowering my head to read" etc. Henry Vaughan's "I saw Eternity the other night" has been deflated by Dorothy or H. Fields's cigarette 'and who was she going out with?' Ezra Pound's hopeful assertion: "Literature is news that STAYS news."

TLS, May 31, 1991

The acronym WASP was first brought into wide use if not actually invented by E. Digby Baltzell, a sociologist at the University of Pennsylvania, in his The Protestant Establishment (1964). The true WASP was always a member of an élite, defined by his genealogy & the institutions—clubs, churches—in which he grew up. WASP one seemed to sing the song, implying as it did a species from whom it was perhaps best to keep one's distance, lest social injury ensued. This has been less & less so. "Oh, Wasp, where is thy sting?" A distinct sting there was. The American Wasp could be heavy in his contempt for all who were not of his kind, pernicious in his snobbery. Canadian American

Wasps. Sole active control group in American life, even in the Moment, it's the
old intact, seemingly built to last, & the recent Moment — poof! — a shambles. The
Student Movement of the 1960s was mostly if not anti-establishment in its sentim-
ionism. The great Civ Rights activities, Wall Street, the Watergate operations, all
were Wasp not only in spirit but personnel. Suddenly the Asian
Am emerged in retreat in literature, Jewish & Black novelists. attracted more
of the critical attention. & rightly so was the case. Everyone jockeyed to maximize his
own old national ancestry, which hitherto had seemed best played down if not act-
ively hidden. Two new groups were formed to claim some kind of ethnic status:
homosexuals & women. The more one's group could claim the condition of oppression,
the better it was. The U.S suddenly became a nation of the oppressed, "the unmeltable
ethnics", in Michael Novak's phrase. The Wasps, the one group in all of American
life with no claims to oppressed status, were excluded from what one may called
"the joys of victimhood". Mr Bush, Wasp patrician & Wasp among Wasps, did all in his
power to eradicate the Well-born New England boy that he is & to take up the pose
of a "good ole boy" Texan. During his campaign against Michael Dukakis — an
ethnic who certainly melted quickly enough — Bush "put on" a ole lower-class act, playing
the Oak Ridge Boys as his favourite singing group, campaigning with a female country
& western singer in tow, chomping on the pork rinds that he allowed were his favourite
food. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, & Stanford, though now much degraded in the kind of
education they offer & charge cheerily in their egalitarian pretensions, still very much
do provide entrée into solid jobs, social ease, etc. Henry James tended to dramatize

Insensitivity of the Waspo, especially when abroad. John Marquand in such novels as Wickford Point & H. M. Pulham, Esquire showed the Waspish class was petty yet not foolish, & Norse Cain issued in repression for all Waspish brethren. The only novelist who still took Waspish ideals seriously was J. P. Cozzens. Both Marquand & Cozzens wrote about the Wasp world from near the inside, while F. Scott Fitzgerald & John O'Hara, as Irishmen, wrote about it from without. But Fitzgerald & O'Hara lived their lives along as Waspish lines as were available to them. Socially, the Irish seem to have been most vulnerable to Wasp-bourgeois chauvinism & snobbery. The Kennedy family especially lived on the Wasp model. But despite John F. Kennedy's capturing the presidency in the U.S.—the Pennsylvania Avenue, the White House—to old time Waspdom, the Kennedys remain Micks & Mackerel-Snappers. The family wasn't helped any by Joseph Kennedy, the founding father, an extremely unpleasant man who made the family fortune through means that, as is said in polite circles, do not bear close scrutiny. Thomas Jefferson, O. W. Holmes, Edmund Wilson, all bear an undeniably Waspish stamp. The fashionable Multiculturalism in practice always turns out to be about the politics of oppression, & its villain inevitably turns out to be not merely the Waspish but White European (male is usually supplied at no extra charge) culture.

Dinesh D'Souza, Illiberal Education: The Politics of Race & Sex on Campus. The notion of "political correctness" has ignited controversy across the land. Michigan has recently been the scene of conflict over a restrictive speech code, the scene of an ~~offended~~ unofficial "White Baiting Week" & conspiracy to enforce racial

He called on Plato, Schiller, Nietzsche, Bakhtin, Gadamer & Derrida for another
March-past. He was celebrated & obviously wea-
thanked-up

Justas, so that those admitted to the university will make up a student body proportionately representative of the racial composition of the population at large. Since there are very much more qualified Whites & Asians than there are blacks & Hispanics, admissions standards are much more stringent for the former than they are for the latter. The people who are running the place are mixed souls. They will knuckle under either to barbarians or to Greeks. They shout loudly enough & make frightening faces. "The Law of Liberation through Contemptor" — or at least threats thereof — against "cowardly administrators & their compliant faculty." Whether or not the culture of DWEMs (Dead White European Males) is being steadily reduced to the Manifesto of the White Pride party

Dr. Dennis Dennis Baron, The English-Only Question: An Official Language for Americans? In Illinois, for example, English was declared the official language as early as 1923, Nevada 1986 California is much more recent. Laws seeking to protect English from encroachment by other languages. The U.S. has generally withheld statehood from territories until they contained English-speaking majorities, e.g. Hawaii & New Mexico. Twenty-five out of the 36 European nations are officially multilingual, though in most of them these are minorities whose languages do not have the same rights or status as those granted to the official language. The "Melting-pot" assumes the dominance of mainstream culture & implicitly promotes its continued hegemony.

[25] June 7, 1971

Gregory Vlastos, Socrates: Ironist & Moral Philosopher. The generally accepted solution of the centuries has been to portray in Plato what is to be taken as

Young Scobie kidnapped into Femme Fatale.

Conway an attempt at) in authentic Bergson & Socrates (the early dialogues), Don Plato's Laterne & Aristotle's Poetique. The Young Man's on Fiction. The feminist emphasis on the struggle is merely the play on the axle bearing of the cart if it is facing. Feminism is consciousness & Brotherhood.

Since Anima Thomalla's précise analysis (1972) & the psychopathology of the femme fatale, that enduring denizen of the fin de siècle has become an obsessive image above ordinary terrestrial existence & those etiolated features were made familiar to us by the Pre-Raphaelites, there has been a gap waiting to be filled by a book-length treatment of her counterpart in the iconography of the Neo-Romantic era—the infinitely more sinister & enigmatic femme fatale. Research needed to be done & groundwork was done long ago by Mario Praz in his classic La carne, la morte e il diavolo (1930) & many subsequent critics have further peopled out the fateful image, it is surprising that we have had to wait this long for such a study as Carola Hilmes's Die Femme fatale, a disappointing book. Dominant & fatal(e) attractive women have featured in the writings of all times, but it is only in the second half of the 19th century that their presence becomes obsessive & sinister & in literature. She assumes the features of a cruel temptress possessing transcendent Evil in fact, delivering Shame & Ruin upon her hapless victims. On a psychological level it is clear that we are dealing with fantasies of forbidden lust & pleasure from constant projection to a scapegoat who is feared at the same time as she is desired. The image of the femme fatale

Feminine is still possessing-keen.
Possessing intellectuals mentor nieces.

was endowed with the exotic accoutrements of a luxuriant Renaissance or a lascivious Orient. The shockingly worshipped femme fatale served as an inviolable & therefore non-threatening, melancholy symbol of total harmony. The ideological underpinning for these destructive fantasies was supplied in the misogynistic theories of Otto Weininger & Sigmund Freud. Eduard Galtz's popular Naturgeschichte der Frauen (1859) served Thomas Hardy as a handy reference guide to female physiology. Hillmer's examples (Wilde's Salomé, Flaubert's Hérodias, Wedekind's Lulu plays & Heinrich Mann's Die Göttinnen) are too few to be representative.

The traditional notion that Beginning a chair both was something easier & more befitting for women" (the "half-hour between tea-time & dressing for dinner").

Fredric Jameson, Postmodernism or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism

The critic's real Motor becomes the search for Symptoms — how a text betrays itself. Instantly, criticism is relieved of the burden of evaluation, of deciding what is good & what is not. All Symptoms are interesting. As Jameson puts it, in the Savage dialect of this trade, "we must bracket the question of value". But Marxists do in fact ascribe moral value: to incoherence & unintelligibility. Please note that this is a mirror-image of the old Leavisian's reverence for "complexity" & "difficulty". The two series have become mirror images of each other, based on the Left & on the Right: as predictably as Tweedledum & Tweedledee, Pinky & Perky, Bill & Ben.

Richard Gamble's ~~Wilson and the Meaning of Neoconservatism~~ [illegible] Reed Lawlor's Book [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Gérard Bramoullé, La Peste Verte is a pitch against [illegible] Green. "Dans cet amour de la nature, c'est toujours la même vieille haine de l'individu qui anime les écologistes." The economics professor Aix-Marseilles teaches them cost, profit & calculation. By some graciously blank end-papers: "L'éditeur est prêt d'avoir fait abattre quelques arbres centenaires pour offrir au lecteur quatre pages blanches et inutiles." Herbert Mitgang's Dangerous Dossiers: Exposing 40 Years of Secret Surveillance of America's Greatest Authors (1989) revealed that the FBI had maintained confidential files on almost every 20th-century American writer of significance, including all the Nobel Prize-winners. Writers may be interested in politics & not.

The more we elaborate the sorts of computational models that cognitive science has provided, the clearer it becomes that they illuminate some aspects of the mind [illegible] and obscure them as well, & many models, e.g. connectionism, the modular approach depends on keeping the distinction between, as Chomsky says, the problems & the mysteries - clearly in mind. Certainly, to assume, that is not in the foreseeable future, [illegible] machine, one might [illegible] inductive inference, to a general principle called. At best, we are in for a long [illegible].

TLS, June 14, 1991

Yevgeny Yevtushenko is a loyal anachronism to the old regime, to which he owes everything, & he has profited from it more than most. No poet in the West could possibly be so successful as he has been: not just in terms of money, but

as publicist, Rendelshad, ambassador-extraordinary. His secret of his success is to have helped teach young & not so young Russians to be as tragically less virtuously cosmopolitan as everyone else. Only Milan Kundera seems to think Kitsch & Communism are the same thing. The Russian term for kitsch is poshlost. Glasnost has its vulgarities, no less than the system it crusades against. Yevtushenko's skills are as predictable as the Reader's Digest. Anatoly Kuznetsov, who confessed the murder to a lost child & told Yevtushenko all about it, wrote his own account (Black D. N. Thomas was unjustly accused of plagiarizing for his novel The White Hotel), & then seems to have had the ingenious idea of going to spy on Yevtushenko for the KGB in order to get permission to travel abroad, where he planned to defect & to declare any allegations he had made against Yevtushenko to be quite false.

Prince Charles, Prince Edward & the Duchess of York have all published books for children; Prince Charles has also published a book on architecture. The Duke of York has published a book of his own photographs, the Duke of Edinburgh has published no less than 7 books (mainly essays & speeches). Should any of these books have found publishers were their authors not Royal? The younger members of the Royal Family now place themselves within the realm of show business. Prince Edward has got a job with Andrew Lloyd Webber's theatre production company. The Duke of York's cousin, Marina Ogilvy (as she is to be seen) this year, on the Jonathan Ross Chat Show, showing he began

behind to the camera after accepting a "Beautiful Bottom" award. How have so easily embraced the notion of Hanoverian personalities as they Khan fit forehead. The journalists place rumours of Prince Philip's dog biting the wife of the Belle run away. "It is unlikely that Philip would ask sex-change, but if rumours did reach the Palace, the Queen's displeasure can only be imagined." While the rest of the Royal Family often appear to be trying to relate its way out of a straitjacket of propriety, Englishness & conservatism, the Duke of Edinburgh, from a background as foreigner, outsider & bohemian can be, wears it lightly. Born on the kitchen table at "Mon Repos" in Corfu to a father who lived in Monte Carlo in the company of women called Daisy & a mother who spent her final years locked away as a nun. The Duke has few claims to convention. He is publicity-conscious, turning first each morning to the Royal stories in the tabloid newspapers before actually reading & passing.

Jews lived in most of what are now Arab lands long before the Arabs arrived. Hellenistic Alexandria, the greatest Jewish centre of its time, gave birth to the most important translation in Western religious culture, the Septuagint. The synagogues of Roman North Africa were among the earliest way-stations of the Christian mission. By the time of the Arab conquest, large Jewish communities had been resident in Mesopotamia for well over a millennium. The incursions of the Muslims into the Fertile Crescent & North Africa in the 7th century enveloped all these settled communities & changed their legal status. Henceforth Jews

the Christians became dhimmis, tolerated subordinated groups with recognized, albeit inferior, position: they were subject to a specific poll tax, the jizya, but exempt from military service. Muslim-Jewish cultural symbiosis in the "golden age" of the Islamic Kingdoms in Spain found lyrical expression in the poetry of Yehuda Halevi (c 1075-c 1141). But in his "Songs of Zion" he gave voice to the millennial yearning for redemption in the Holy Land: "I am subject to the Arabs / the Ishmaelites, / Who oppress me, / like the decay of humanity." The philosopher who celebrated Muslim religious tolerance as a spur to Jewish tolerance of their own societies

Jacques Le Rider, Modernité Viennoise et Crises de l'Identité. Le Rider's two works about Otto Weininger who denounced the "feminization" & "judaization" of modern culture. Anti-Semitism had become so much part of the public discourse of Vienna that even the most assimilated of Viennese Jews could not find a way out of what Ludwig Börne once termed the "magic circle" of Jewish. In the most extreme cases like those of Karl Kraus & Otto Weininger, this led to a perverse projection of anti-Semitic libels on to the Jews themselves. Freud's obsession with Moses was clearly an autobiographical projection of the man Freud & his unresolved Jewish problem. Kraus's contradictions in his assimilationist position, his support for the anti-Dreyfusards in France, his friendly attitude to racist anti-Semites like Lanz von Liebenfels & Houston S. Chamberlain — a form of "Jewish self-hatred."

T.L.S. July 12, 1991

× Erik Lawrence

Arnold: "If there is a defect which, above all others, is signal in Milton, ... it is the defect common to him with the whole Puritan party of which he belonged — the fatal defect of temper. He & they may have a thousand merits, but they are unamiable. Extraction how one kills Milton's austerity & acerbity, his want of greatness of temper, of the Shakespearian largeness & indulgence, as irritabile."

Power not power, that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it & fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it.

8

On August 22, 1966, Kwame Nkrumah wrote, "Like all Mao Tse-tung I give a damn what the West & the Russians think of him. Sometimes there's much in the so-called personality cult."

Thomas Mann in a state of more or less permanent ill-temper.

Simone de Beauvoir argued that fashion was fundamental to enslavement (it wasted women's time & sometimes physically impeded them), & Lyndon Wolff called it "putting the body on display." Women started wearing cosmetics, easily became practiced in self-presentational gestures, learning to carry the mirror of others in the mind, although one might at any moment be photographed. For a time feminists did their best to be natural; unable to fashion they cultivated incompetence (even "zero degree dressing").

Heisenberg explains that he said Verbalisation — the passing of the word) is not cancelled (or rather bracketed): "It is still there, like the bracketed matter inside a pair of parentheses ... but we make more of it".

TLS, July 19, 1991

The polymathically erudite Arnaldo Momigliano lived, & met the vicissitudes of, that famous Oxford career in interesting times. A Piedmontese Jewish intellectual by birth, he was deep into the path of historical jaggernaut. In 1938, he was dismissed from his Turin chair on racial grounds, & emigrated to England the following year. Nine other members of his family, including both his parents, met their ends in Nazi extermination camps. He argued that history had become little more than a branch of rhetoric in the hands of the deconstructionists, the sectarian historians (e.g. Hayden White) he nursed a harmless determination to eclipse Mommsen in terms of output. He himself quoted the old joke about a man making his reputation by being invited to deliver the Sather Lectures & then losing it by delivering them. Momigliano was "above all a scholar of texts & ideas... more at home in a bookshop than in a museum, a library than at an excavation site." "The Hebrew God is the God of Truth. No Greek God, to the best of my knowledge, is called alethinos, truthful." "What could not be said in the name of Castalio's Machiavelli could be said in the name of pagan Tacitus!"

Among the follies of his early life that St Augustine came to regret was his weeping over the fate of Dido. Virgil portrayed Dido as a temptation laid in Aeneas' path to his higher destiny & from which he had to escape, aided by Mercury's stern rebuke that women are a thing, varium et mutabile; Dido redeemed the balance by putting an account of events into her own mouth. Chaucer told her story twice: in The House of Fame, he starts as if following Virgil but ends by accusing Aeneas of treachery; in The Legend of Good Women, his anthology of betrayed

ladies, Aeneas is the villain from the start, & Dido's story is played for all the pathos he can draw from it. Augustine first asked why Lucretia should have killed herself unless she had in some sense been complicit in the act. Forced sex may not touch the mind, but physically, maybe she enjoyed being raped. Shakespeare too made Lucrece accuse her "gross blood" of "accessary yielding". Chaucer sidesteps such misogynistic speculation by having her faint at the crucial moment.

Leonid Brezhnev who last established her the benefit of television cameras on Nov. 7, 1982. At 75, well on his way to senility, he was made to stand in the bitter cold for two hours by his political heir, Konstantin Chernenko, in order to improve his own chances of becoming the next leader of the USSR. Chernenko too was a reformer of a sort. He also revived Lenin's old catchword *glasnost*. But we will never know what his *glasnost* ~~that too~~ would have amounted to: for within a year he in turn was replaced. Gorbachev & his "new men" were in no sense revolutionaries — they were "products of the same system & determined to make it work". As one Soviet dissident put it: "Suppose a man steals a hundred things from me & then, somewhat later, grudgingly returns one. Should I thank him warmly or continue to ask for the return of the other 99?"

Richard E. Neustadt's *Presidential Power* ~~& the~~ has hailed as a classic when it appeared in 1960. It has been required reading for White House staffs in a number of administrations. The theory has become one of the best-known & most frequently quoted passages about the presidency. In 1952, President Harry Truman is about to hand over to General Dwight Eisenhow-

The stimulating gulf between American poets is now "Where do you teach?" — the programmes have hijacked poetry as the raw material needed to shore up those profitable critical boilers, the end product of which, like toxic waste, is getting poetry a very bad name.

She begins to think aloud: "He'll set her", Truman said, indicating the Clerk of the Court "& he'll say, 'Do this! Do that!' And that will happen. Poor Ike — it won't be a bit like the Army. He'll find it very frustrating." This provides the theme for Neustadt's text, which is not about presidential power at all, but about presidential weakness. The new edition of Presidential Power & the Modern Presidents: The politics of leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan continues & expands this point. "The president is not a substitute for Britain's monarch." The president is hemmed in & checked & frustrated by Congress, the courts, the states, the press, private interests to an even greater extent than was, say, George III.

TLS, July 26, 1991

It is said — I don't know how it could be verified — that Nietzsche never travelled without carrying a vol. of Emerson's essays with him. Emerson became very actively engaged in the anti-slavery movement. In Aug. 1844, he delivered an address entitled "Emancipation in the British West Indies." It was extremely difficult to find a venue for this meeting, & when it was, Boston's Whig Party elite clamoured to announce it, the sexton having refused. Emerson was heard: "The sugar they [the slaves] raised was excellent [and] nobody tasted blood in it." In some key biographies Emerson the committed reformer & abolitionist was simply written out. Effectively, the conservative O.W. Holmes created the image of an almost anti-Emerson, decently uninterested in contemporary social matters. He had serious doubts (with his)

*萨塞.爱底16之名言

with his eyes still on which were related to a form of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. He had a body riddled by a frequently mortal disease. Hence his saying: "he who would not must dance". His famous or infamous "Twenty-School Addays" in 1838 caused hate & fear, & aroused fierce opposition. The reviews of the volume containing "Self-Reliance" said its doctrines [i.e. society as a "conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members"] "if acted upon, would overthrow society, & resolve the world into chaos." Movement is what matters. "Every good is on the highway." "All symbols are fluxional; all language is vehicular & transitive, & is good as it expresses, for conveyance, like a house & farmyard, for homestead." * "Virtue hates calculators. Its methods are saltatory & impulsive. Man lives by pulses"

Georg Lukács is ignored, when not mocked, in Hungary today. Franz Borkenau, himself a former communist, stated in his book The Communist International (1934) that "the theoretician who was perhaps the sole brain behind Hungarian Communism", i.e. Lukács: "Communist ethics make it the highest duty to accept the necessity of doing evil. This, he said, was the greatest sacrifice Revolution asked from us... evil transforms itself into bliss through the dialectic of history... That Morality of the type of Nechaev is, inter alia, based upon the admiration of Dostoevski, will surprise nobody". The milieu in which Lukács grew up was that of the haute-bourgeois assimilated Jewish world of Hungary, patronized by aristocracy, which spawned, among other remarkable intellectuals, Karl Polanyi, Arnold Hauser & Karl Mannheim. Lukács' father,

Jozsef Löwinger, the director of the Hungarian General Credit Bank, was one of the most powerful men in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Ernestine, Budapest-born and German-speaking, came from one of the oldest and wealthiest Jewish families in Eastern Europe. Jozsef Löwinger was ennobled in 1901, paying a considerable sum for the patent, and took the name of von Lukács. Pride he respected his father, George loathed his mother & tormented her by speaking to her in Hungarian. His great orator was Nietzsche. Like Johann Fichte (of "Grundzüge des gegenwärtigen Zeitalters", 1804-5), he lived, he said, in "the epoch of completion"; only in the works of Dostoevsky (the "did not write novels") is there a foreboding vision of a new age. Fichte believed that each epoch had to reach a nadir before advancing to the next. So, too, did Lukács. The belief expressed by Razumikhin in *Crime & Punishment* that one can "lie one's way to truth", is a faith similar to *credo quia absurdum est*. Like Kierkegaard, he made the leap of faith & joined the Communist Party. A half-mad Russian revolutionary poet, Ljena Grabenko, also was his first lover. She had much to do with this decisive act. She was a small, petite woman, a member of a Russian revolutionary terrorist group which once carried a bomb in her clothes to conceal it. Promiscuous & bohemian, she was for Lukács the very image of the sainted harlot, Sonia. And to the dismay of his family, he married her. They set up house in Heidelberg, which quickly became a *ménage à trois*: Ljena painted & played the piano, Lukács made the beds & washed the dishes, their friend Ernst Bloch, dubbed Steinbach, stalked wildly about, occasionally beating Ljena. The three became such nervous wrecks that they went to Karl Jaspers, then a practising psychiatrist, for

treatment. But Lyons also introduced Lukács to the work of Boris Savinkov, the Social Revolutionary terrorist leader, who, in 1909, under the pseudonym of V. Ropshin, had written a novel, the Pale Horse. For Ropshin, terrorism was an act of love, the deed which, like the resurrection of Christ, would usher in "socialism & the coming paradise on earth". The essay "Tactics & Ethics", Lukács's grammar of assent, written shortly after he joined the party, concludes with a reference to Savinkov's dictum: "Murder is not allowed; it is an absolute & unpardonable sin; it 'may' not, yet it 'must' be committed ... Only he who unflinchingly & without reservations that is under no circumstance to be sanctioned can commit the murderous deed that is truly — & tragically — moral". After the October Revolution, Savinkov fomented conspiracies against Lenin & the Bolsheviks. In the Savinkov-Riti Band movement against the Bolsheviks. In 1924, he was lured back to Moscow by the G.P.U. & brought to trial, & proclaimed his conversion to Bolshevism. He was sentenced to death. Ljena, who Lukács had divorced, disappeared in the Gulag. Lukács never made any effort to see her during his years in Moscow. As a political commissar, Lukács, dressed in plain khaki, green shirt, & heavy walking shoes, Lukács addressed the army troops: "You [illegible] Terror. Terror on such ... Terror & bloodshed are a moral duty ..." A last-minute appeal from Béla Kun to Lenin was unanswered, & on August 2, 1919, Kun surrendered power. Lukács had not read much Marx (& what he had read he had dismissed as vulgar materialism); now he read much Lenin. Lukács had been influenced by an anarcho-syndicalist Ervin Szabó, the Hungarian translator of Marx & Engels. This is the background of his History & Class Consciousness, the book which earned him his reputation as the great gnostic

leader of Marxism. ... [illegible] did not accept "at once", & was solely
disrupted after 1924, Georg Lukács was forced to repudiate it in Moscow. The book
contains a new edn of Rosa Luxemburg's pamphlet, "The Historic[illegible] of the
Russian Revolution" & ingresses her prescient fear that the dictatorship
of the proletariat would become the dictatorship of the Party, & within the
Party the dictatorship of one man over the Party. Marxist materialism, partial-
ly also critiqued by Engels, saw society as three-tiered, with an economic base
& an ideological (political-legal-cultural) superstructure. This was extended by
Lenin's Materialism & Empirio-criticism, with its simple copy theory of
knowledge, & was the basis of the rejection of Einstein's theory of relativity as
Quantum theory as "idealistic". Lukács rejected such thinking & sought to provide
a new philosophical foundation: totality from Hegelianism & alienation, the major
mode of alienation from Simmel's Philosophie des Geldes. Lukács first
became aware of the sociology of knowledge, though Karl Mannheim mini-
mized his debt to Lukács. He returned to Moscow & remained there for 15
years — the most humiliating period of his life. He survived He knew how to
bend the knee & was protected by the rather modest rules of Stalin's philosophers,
such as Zhdanov. He maintained his distance from the Engels circles. He made
[illegible] job on International Literature. Writing largely about realism & foreign
novels. (He never really learned Russian.) The Historical Novel was his
major work of the time. He always recognized an individual's need to sacrifice
his freedom in the interests of the higher cause, & his surrender to Stalinism

a mind crammed but uncluttered.

was "genuine"! Didn't you notice?" And Lukács frankly, "In my article [on self-criticism] I did not say a single word against Hegel... In the 1956 "counter-revolution" Nagy was hanged. Lukács survived, thanks to the intervention of Bertrand Russell, who had threatened to resign as president of the World Peace Council unless Lukács was released. Besides, Lukács had privately made overtures to Kadar. He vowed to Revai that he would never touch politics again, but "there will be no self-criticism." He asked for the return of his party card. Ten years later, a few years before his death, it was given back to him. Tom Driberg [gave up sex in 1968 except with a] "very few occasional old friends" Mary Gordon, <u>Good Boys & Dead Girls</u>: "There are some women writers whose faces appear in the mind's eye whenever one thinks of their books; they are beauties, those women, & we are astonished & heartened at the good fortune & improbability they stand for. George Eliot, we think, had to be a troll, with a long horse face, but in the case of, say, Colette & Virginia Woolf, the choice of writing seems a pure election: other lives were clearly open to them." "Why bother to translate? Transmute instead! / If infidelity involves divorce —what harm? Who's going to cancel the license?"

<u>London Review of Books</u>, 30 Jan. 1992

"If the thing is not worth doing, it's worth doing well."

When Casey Stengel turned 84, a reporter asked him how it felt to be old, & Stengel replied: "Most people my age are dead already. You could look it up." Queen Charlotte had parsimonious, stamping the leftover pats of butter

with her signed recipe that they would not be eaten by the servants. Her cannibalism is Apple Charlotte, a recipe that uses up stale bread

In Pope John Paul's view, every advance of semen which a man ejaculates contains a potential soul. That is why it is sinful for a Catholic man to masturbate, why he is forbidden to indulge in any form of sexual activity which could never result in a human conception. This rules out, of course, marital sex when methods of artificial birth control are used. Since the Pope entertains these quaint views, it is not surprising that he takes an absolutely rigid view of the whole range of sexually related ethical questions. He has seen for himself, on his many world tours & during his visits to some of the poorest places in the world, the devastating effects of overpopulation in areas of great poverty. In November 1989 the Vatican sponsored its own Aids Conference. The Pope attended & all the experts advised & then agreed that. A placard-waving Aids John Wade, held up a banner during the conference which contained the words: "The Church has Aids." He was frogmarched out of the room by Vatican heavies. At the end of the conference the Pope issued a directive that there were no circumstances in which it might be justifiable for a man to wear a condom. A spiritual dictator & extraordinary despot who has left the Vatican in a state of chaos & near-bankruptcy. Nearly 130 years ago, J. H. Newman wrote, "There are but two alternatives, the way to Rome, & the way to Atheism: Anglicanism is the half-way house on the one side, & Liberalism is the half-way house on the other. The Pope has a recognition

intellectual pedigree. He proves from Dilch he argues might be wrong: but if they are accepted, then he must be right to battle stubbornly for the maintenance of the fact.

Francis Dunlop, Scheler. Max Scheler would start philosophizing, his lecture said, as he dressed. The public lectures which the Chancellor invited him to give in Berlin in 1920 often went on for 4 hours at a time. He understood what he saw as the triumphs practicality over value — the victory of civilisation, as Spengler had famously put it — over culture. Germany after its defeat in 1918 was a very political place. But Scheler, like Thomas Mann, whose Considerations of an Unpolitical Man caught the mood of many intellectuals in the Weimar years, ended his life a Catholic. His mother brought him up in Judaism to Catholicism. He had conceived a passion for Amélie von Dewitz-Krebs, who was older & married. In 1901, he met Edmund Husserl. His thesis was a success & he was at once appointed to a lectureship at Jena, moved to the town divorced Amélie & received into the Church. In 1906, however, he was sacked. Amélie had caused a scandal by publicly accusing the wife of a well-known publisher of having an affair with her husband. Husserl who was divorced always a generous man, helped him to get a post at Munich. His vagaries & embarrassing debts made his fellow professors lose patience. When in 1910 recommended that his licence to teach in Germany be withdrawn. He spent the rest of the pre-war years living as he could from a little journalism & occasional lectures. He also divorced Amélie to marry Märit Furtwängler. In 1914, he, like other Bildungsbürger, was asked to write

for the War Ministry, to direct propaganda at the Catholic populations of Switzerland, Austria & Holland. After the peace he was recruited to the Sociological faculty which Konrad Adenauer, then Mayor of Cologne, had set up in the city. He took Scheler's Chair, but he fell for another famous woman Maria Scheu. A call once again to teach Philosophy (in Frankfurt) came only at the end in 1928. He had unequivocal disdain for empiricists, pragmatists, materialists, Marxists, Socialists, Englishmen & Americans – all of them philistines. Knowledge for practical control (Leistungswissen) } Bildungswissen (knowledge for personal cultivation) & Heil above knowledge for salvation (Heilswissen) the highest thing is love, the aspiration to Einsfühlung, not the thin "sympathy" or "altruism."

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIA) is supposed to be a military alliance. So in the old, Communist days, the leaders would meet, publicly pledge friendship, make bland statements, issue high-sounding declarations & conduct their real business in private in a very different spirit. Now, however, there is no Party to determine the slaves' speech. The behind-the-scenes moves are sometimes only by the thought of retributions or calculations about who the West gives aid, foreign capital, will approve. The state monopoly has not been dismantled. There was nothing in the text to distinguish Yeltsin's speech & distinguish it from dozens of others scripted in the Marxist-Leninist, self-congratulatory style of the late Brezhnev period. Gorbachev has left the Kremlin cat: all that was visible of him was his mouth, endlessly talking. No joint-venture capitalists confront the old Soviet working class. This is the way the world ends: not with a bang, but a whimper.

A Cultural History of Gesture: From Antiquity to the Present, ed. Jan Bremmer & Herman Roodenburg. According to Boswell, Johnson was so hostile to gesticulation that "When another gentleman thought he was giving additional force to what he uttered, by a proper movement of his hands, Johnson fairly seized them and held them down." But in restraining someone else's gesture, he himself gestured. Gesture is unavoidable, because the body is seldom completely at rest, & almost any of its movements might assume significance in the eyes of an observer. Johnson made no effort to restrain the limb with which he was about to refute Bishop Berkeley. In an absorbing essay about elbows in Renaissance painting, Joanna Woodall shows that a surprisingly large proportion of Dutch militia company portraits include one or more figures with an arm pugnaciously akimbo. In corporate portraits of the civic dignitaries assembled around a table, there is often a figure at the edge of the group whose elbow bars the way to intruders. In marriage & family portraits of the period, the husband's body is all jutting angles & the wife's all receptive curves. The elbows jut not only at phantom intruders, but at us. They help to organize the picture-plane, creating a boundary or threshold. Jan Bremmer recalls that an Athenian male who surveyed his surroundings as he walked, or looked over his shoulder, or inclined his head to one side, was fairly likely to be classified as a passive homosexual. Fritz Graf finds Quintilian denouncing orators who gesticulate so widely that it is scarcely safe to stand behind him. If we want to understand the "language" of gesture, e.g. what someone means by standing with

Hiddens apkimbo we must first recognize that a gesture cannot be taken out of its circumstances. Dignity, self-possession, & then the last knowledge together with any other assumptions he may make about the man & the circumstances of his particular gesture, as a basis for inferring what he means by it. Communication is not complete when a signal has been decoded into message. We have yet to combine the output of decoding with non-linguistic knowledge in such a way as to infer an intention. Eliot: "I doubt whether a civil war ever does end." When Pandarus surveys the sorrowful Troilus with his arms folded", the gesture is conventional sign of melancholy, indicates the depth of compassion. When Ariel reports to Prospero how he has left Ferdinand "cooling of the air with sighs, in an odd angle of the isle, and sitting / His arms in this sad knot," we can feel that Ferdinand, too, really does have a load on his mind. So does Marcus, in Titus Andronicus, when he stands about the brother in grief done to Titus & Lavinia, his arms folded in a "sad-becoming knot." But Shakespeare shows the precariousness of gesture. Titus has to point out to Marcus: "My niece & I, poor creatures, want our hands, / And cannot passionate our tenfold grief / With folded arms." When Titus says that he will "wind an alphabet" from Lavinia's gestures, we know that he will have to research it largely by inference, since her mutilation has left her so little by gesture. In Coriolanus the same gesture is the idiom of the foolish & affected. In Love's Labour Lost, Moth advises the Lord-to-be Don Armado to "stand with your arms crossed on your thin-bellied doublet

* The 1st poem in Alistair Fowler, The Oxford Book of 17th-cent. Verse.
* His popular fiction is a mash-up of beat Shimay & state-of-the-art positive
  neologisms in demand on the heated circuit.

Love a rabbit on a spit." Bergonne speaks of Capid as the "lord of folded arms"
"the handshake only took over from more ceremonial forms of greeting around
1800: in British print, often in Holland, France & Russia. More Bergony provides
evidence that the handshake was still regarded in France in the 1850s, as an
English custom. In Jane Austen's novels, handshakes are the usual form of
greeting. Knightley indicates that he has forgiven Emma for her treatment of Miss
Bates by taking her hand, on parting, seeming to about to carry it to his lips.
Emma must combine her recognition of the signals with what she knows about
both what she knows about Knightley's character (his manners had in general
the little gallantry) in order to decipher the depth of his feeling. Replace Knightley
by the execrable Tollshub, say, & the meaning changes. Lady Elizabeth Tan-
field's epitaph inscribed on Sir Lawrence Tanfield's Tomb: "Love made
me a peer, / And this I wrote; / My heart did rise, / And not my pen."*
Gay have replaced duelling, the Aids crisis the Syphilis epidemic, the feminist
the New Woman, & endism the fin de siècle."
"The old-fashioned humanities man who thinks he has an open mind is simply
the gripe an older theory". The racism is apt to have a boomerang effect. For
New Humanities men often seem equally unconscious that their pretended ideo-
logical detachment is a renegotiated Pritchett or R. P. Jacobs "living in an
ivory facade." Distances to be to work around mediated through
theory or seminar.

London Review of Books, 13 Feb 1992

In 1871, when Queen Victoria was in the 10th year of her widowhood, & when even the great British public was becoming increasingly irritated by her continued seclusion in Windsor, Osborne & Balmoral, a young, clever, radical MP named George Otto Trevelyan published a pamphlet which dared the effrontery to ask: "What does she do with it?" What, he wanted to know, was the money going which the Queen was paid by the Government for the sole purpose of maintaining the duties & dignities of her position as head of state? Instead of being spent as it should have been, on royal ceremonial, public appearances & regal display, he believed it was being improperly applied to the creation of a vast & essentially private royal fortune. So far as we know the history & the size of this royal nest-egg were concerned he believed that "the people of England have a right to be informed." As Bunker Hunt, the one-time Texas billionaire, once observed: anyone who knows how much they are worth cannot be worth very much. £3000 million is a mind-boggling accumulation. No one really knows what is included among the Queen's assets. Her shareholdings, & her houses & estates at Sandringham & Balmoral, are obviously her own private possessions. But what of the Crown jewels, the royal art collections, the royal yacht & royal trains, to say nothing of Buckingham Palace & Windsor Castle? Before 1800, British monarchs often had little private financial status, & could not personally own land. When George III's children overspent, as they regularly did, it was Parliament which had to pay their debts. When Victoria's eldest son, the Prince of Wales, decided to live his social life among the fast set, it was paid by those in the Privy Purse who had to balance the financial accounts at the end

years, the House of Windsor has evolved into a wealth-creating machine Mr Midas might have envied. In 1842, the then Tory Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, reintroduced income tax. The Queen has determined or advised that "her income should be subject to a similar burden." For the remainder of her reign, the Queen paid income tax, & it never seems to have occurred to her that she should not. Her eldest, however, had other ideas. & When he succeeded to the throne as Edward VII in 1901, he immediately asked the Conservative Government of Lord Salisbury whether he might be "relieved" of the income tax he paid on the Civil List. Much to the King's regret the cabinet refused to oblige. But in 1874, Queen Victoria had acquired a major tax privilege when the Sovereign was declared exempt from the newly-levied death duties. Like taxes levied by the state rose inexorably, the profits of successive monarchs generated a series of exemptions, which meant that by the time King George VI was paying almost no tax at all. Many of these changes were reported in Parliament, let alone the Press. In 1952, when the Civil List of the dead Queen was being negotiated, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, R.A. Butler, blandly announced that she was "naturally" exempt. The Queen's stock exchange earnings cannot be much short of £20 million a year. Because she does not pay tax at the standard rate of 40% on this huge unearned income, the Queen enjoys a bonus roughly £8 million a year, or £20,000 a day, which can be ploughed back, so as to increase her holdings still further.

Derek Humphry, Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance & Assisted Suicide for the Dying. Goethe's The Sorrows of Young Werther is reported to have inspired an epidemic of imitative suicides. It is likely that many of the victims also imitated the incompetence of Werther's self-slaughter — an act worthy of the Three Stooges from a latter-day Hamlet. The clock strikes twelve & with the fortune cry "Lotte! Lotte! Farewell! Farewell." Goethe's romantic hero shoots himself in the head. Six hours later a servant comes in to find his master in a pool of blood, but still breathing. It is not until noon that Werther dies. His mistake was to shoot himself with a low-velocity pistol "above the right eye". The ball's impact was absorbed by the frontal part of the skull, an area which human evolution has specifically fortified against missile attack. Had Werther devoted his last hours to reading contemporary rather than Lessing's Emilia Galotti, he would have known to shoot himself through the right eye or up through his open mouth. Extensive research might have been possible by an operative seeking a list of young & keen would-have-been suicides agonising. An equally painless suicide in Waterloo is similarly foretold. Emma Bovary steals arsenic from the pharmacist's locked cupboard with the vague usual that as a self-poison it must be fast & certain. The result is a day-long agony during which she vomits blood & screams curses at the poison she has injudiciously taken. Emma would have done better with a pint of laudanum — as easily come by in a 19th-century chemist shop as milk. One of the best-known "appealing suicides" in literature — of Mrs Hazel in Sons & Lovers — is rather more efficiently handled [illegible]

still far from expert. Paul overdoses his mother's milk with her. Their description of Miss Thin's habits, which he's since had published Mrs Hazel evidently guesses why her night-time drink is not tea but drinks none. Paul then lies in attendance for 13 hours, while his mother lead-nose & grunts her way into oblivion. One can, of course, find deadly efficacious recipes for suicide in fiction. Here is a very practical description of how to get hold of a good home- death in Huxley's "Ape & Essence". Britain's policy of tough censorship keeps the annual rate of (officially recorded) suicides down to 500— infinitely fewer than are killed by guns, many fewer than are killed in road accidents, & in 1900, fewer than are killed by medics. Most people, it seems, decide they might as well die. Final Exit, like Spy- catcher, is a best-seller in America. Like Peter Wright, Derek Humphry is a renegade Briton. He admits to having "assisted" three & has lived once to tell it: Unlike British but he is a litigious killer. Since 1978 he has lived on the West Coast & America. In 1980 he launched the Hemlock Society, for which he claims a current membership of 38000. His 1981 guide to self-deliverance, Let me die before I wake, to 130,000 copies from 1988-1990 he was President of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies, which may be a less ground-stumbling thing to be. No matter that gets Humphry's real approval & would deserve rather hard work. Intending suicides should have a lethal quantities of Seda-

from their dejection, if necessary years before the drugs are actually needed. (And remember to keep them in a safe, cool, dark place, & to renew them every five years). The technique he recommends is to take insomnia pills for progressively longer periods on the ground that Valium, Ex-lax & whatever don't do the trick. Eventually, in short, the doctor will prescribe the "magic pills," the barbiturates. The lethal cocktail of drugs may be enhanced with alcohol ("Vodka is odorless, effective"). Final Exit was generally published by doctors & pro-euthanasia activists. America's desire for plausible deniability will deliver death on the cheap rather than encourage it. An eclipse of $1000 a day has been denounced by the Dr Jack Kevorkian — also "Dr Death" & "Jack the Dripper," a retired Michigan pathologist who has had a lifelong love affair with the human corpse. His current business card reads: "Jack Kevorkian MD, Bioethics & Obituary. Special death counselling." "Obituary" is a term invented by Kevorkian for doctor-assisted death. He has invented a suicide machine with which he tried to administer the combination in leading medical journals. He did not succeed, but the publicity got him into the network Donahue talk shows. So far he has assisted 3 applicants to kill themselves.

The factualists historians resist the illegitimacy of invoking counter-factual stories: they stringently insist that speculations about roads not taken, love affairs actually happened is merely parochial or counter-factualist. But stories are a story of what do distinguish between always resort to an implicit Life

Tabloids: the Princess ~~Mother~~ Mum ("God Bless you... your Husband Rots in Hell"), the Duchess of York ("Fergie ~~Fools~~ Fools Again! I only Hope that Both Mother & Baby Die in childbirth"), etc.

as Anders Geneen says, how it might have happened otherwise. David Lewis argued in Counterfactuals (1973) that warranted counter-factuals are only rule to obey causal-logic, they tend to imply a real alternative world. John Elster proposed that a "plausible counter-factual would lead to develop consistently out of a single historical branching-point: "the alternative state" had to be explainable in terms into the real past" Logic & Society (1978)

Susanne Klingenstein, Jews in the American Academy 1900-1940. Department of English dominated since the most resistant to hiring academics of Jewish-background. Harvard virtually refused to accept refugees from Nazi Germany on its faculty. New York was pure, Princeton employed a Jewish professor but probably without knowing his parentage & Yale knew they in the Ivy-Ties applying for undergraduate admissions, as did Columbia.

René Wellek, A History of Modern Criticism 1750-1950, Vol VII: Conclusions, Russian & Eastern European Criticism, 1900-1950, Yale, £26. The phrase Wiederspiegelung der Wirklichkeit, reflection of reality, is repeated 132 times in the first volume alone of his Aesthetik. Patrick Parrinder, Authors & Authority: English & American Criticism 1750-1990, Macmillan, £12.95. Harold Bloom's conception of literature is ultimately conservative & archaic. "Great literature ... forces an authoritative & inchange tradition; belatedness is incapable of the gestures of literature & therefore foreclosed" The persistent academization of criticism. A strong preference for murky, enigmatic

Lord Acton was fond of citing the Duc de Broglie: "He must never be afraid of understanding, lest he end by the Marseillaise forgiving"!

Deconstructive thinkers like Lacan, Derrida, Foucault, Lyotard, Both in their political convictions & the allure of Gallic patrician are reflected in the slogan: "Clarity is a form of fascist oppression." If you are a neo-Marxist or Neo-Nietzschean or an advocate of gender studies or semiotics or deconstruction you don't engage in serious dialogue with people in rival camps, because the benighted others are not just wrong, they are immoral. The academic "market-leaders" of Theory ... have shown remarkable ability in refurbishing their product-lines, launching new "insights" packaged intellectual models & consigning yesterday's theories to the rubbish shoot." a "built-in theoretical obsolescence" — a dynamic of Capitalist competition.

A man leaves a restaurant, noticing a grand & expensive establishment after paying his bill. The maître d'hôtel follows him and asks if he has not forgotten something. The diner, secure in his conviction that the maître d'hôtel has not done his duty by him, produces a ten-pound note. "This was for you," he says. But, instead of handing it over, he produces the cigarette-lighter & turns the note in front of the maître d'hôtel, wishes him good evening & goes on his way. During the great depression of the thirties, young men at Oxford were reported to light their cigars with five-pound notes. For some, the idea of wealth goes hand in hand with lack of orientation. Cyprian de Burgos, when reproved for his folly of throwing his purse to someone replied tout court: Mais quelle geste!

Stuffed sausage that everybody has & nobody wants to become
Virgin radios that nobody has & everybody wants.

3 London Review of Books, 27 Feb. 1992

Many more youngsters will be misled, beyond those who have been conned already into thinking that reading Anna Swirszczynska in indifferent translation gives them as firm a sense of poetry as reading Milton in English. Czeslaw Miłosz has recognized & said that the con-jobs which the Concretists like A. Ginsberg & Ted Hughes, along with David Rousset have perpetrated on English-speaking readers is as nothing compared to what they have inflicted on the foreign poets whom they affect to serve.

Could these propaganda sheets ever be more enlightened than a boot in the ribs, a brick through the window? Fire-watchers. Flame-throwers. Blackouts. Grenades. "Burn, baby, burn." The dialectic is of accordion-pleated Molotov cocktail warfare, that is, before anything else, an anarchist, a communard of incendiary icons. A Paris graffiti of 1968: "Soyez réalistes, demandez l'impossible."

Candide, Le Neveu de Rameau, Les Liaisons dangereuses, Rousseau's Confessions are works of ferocious, if incoherent, perfection. Talleyrand: "Qui n'a pas vécu dans les années voisines de 1787 ne sait pas ce que c'est que le plaisir de vivre". The 1750s & 1760s in France were the age of bombast. The Encyclopédie was all too full of bombast as Voltaire complained loudly; the Great Buffoon was a combustible fool, & who could be more combustible than Condorcet? The criterion of an age will at least have to be, not just Something, but something-&-its-opposite — a point which did not escape Hegel. Like Mme de Merteuil's cherished dissertation, in her long self-education in libertinage,

is how much a libertine can learn from the Classical Moralists. Rameau's Nephew
arrives at the same thought: "I learn from them especially one must do & especially
one must not say. Thus, when I read Voltaire's L'Avare I tell myself, 'Be a
miser if you love, but be sure not to speak like a miser.' When I read
Tartuffe I say to myself, 'Be hypocrite if you choose, but do not speak like a
hypocrite.' Mme d'Epinay, daughter of an impoverished family of the minor nobility, married, at the age of 19, her cousin Louis d'Epinay, one of Franco's 40
fermiers-generaux. Her husband was an appalling spendthrift & rake, & eventually the marriage broke down. He infected her with a venereal disease & the unfortunate she had passed it on to her lover of the time, Dupin de Francueil. When Louis had enough to do Rousseau a good turn, gave him the use of a cottage ("The Hermitage") on her estate. Dide[rot] enabled her to enjoy life again. For all the latter part of her life, she called herself be "mad" on her worldly & "tyrannical" lover Grimm, a man "who received a thousand confidences & would give none." One of her guests was the Abbé Ferdinando Galiani, a tiny figure, only four feet six in height. He was a raffishly clever fabler, a bit à la mode, inconsequently a learned archaeologist & advanced economic theoretician. When he heard that the writer Algarotti had ordered his tomb to be inscribed Hic jacet Algarottus, sed non omnis, he made the bad-taste joke that it would be more appropriate for Farinelli & Salimbeni (the famous castrati). "Voltaire is wrong to tell philosophers, 'Love one another my children'. That is exactly to the reverse of the doctrine of the Encyclopédistes & Jansenists ... Philosophers are

the X-road was blocked by a nose-tail jam of devastated vehicle, metal carapaces lay abandoned to left & right, tires & cars.

not born to love one another. Eagles do not fly in company; it is to be left to partridges & starlings. Voltaire was very loved & he was not loved by anybody..." In the Dialogues on the Corn Trade, the dead is malicious. "Chevalier de Zanobi" is a thinly-disguised portrait of Galiani himself. He attacked the Physiocrats because they [that] mind you are the men of good will... Do not fear the rascality of the wicked; sooner or later they are unmasked. Fear the deluded men of good will; he is one good he mustn't has ever come across, he desires the good... But unfortunately he is mistaken about as to the means of procuring it for us... A great man has to combine such diverse & opposite qualities almost impossible to reconcile; he must have the ardent wish for good of the mass of people, together with... the indifference of the wicked." Galiani fascinated Nietzsche who in Beyond Good & Evil called the Abbé "the profoundest, most sharp-sighted & perhaps also the wisest man of his century".

Fiona Pitt-Kethley, the literary Companion to Sex: An Anthology of Prose & Poetry. Fiona's favorite novel is the 金瓶梅 a Chinese book called Chin Ping Mei. In her own poetry & in her travel book Journey to the Underworld she has been frank, even insistent about the breadth of her own sexual experience; she likes to be photographed in poses that make the most of her bosom. She has rescued from the realms of obscurity many authors who should have remained there. An old snippet of useful information from Reginald Scot's The Discovery of Witchcraft: "to provide the disciple of

Jetpitched & contrained love. The party rewritches must make a jake of the lover: slave." It delves a piquant variation on sippi, champagne from a slipper. Writing about sex-demo little more than variation on "fen". Simple themes: boys boasting about the size of their member, & how long they can keep it up: how much they make her bleed, & how the total wanted it more. It is intensely misogynistic. Pitt Kethley's search for female words to provide another point of view is largely futile. The Restoration trope of Aphra Behn's Betty Flaunter, or the age-old female cry: "No matter for his handsomeness, let me have him tall has most money." Harwell's Coy Mistress bowdlerises the centurions & sanctifies changes sex. "As Joe Orton put it: 'When you're dead you'll regret not having fun with your genitals organs.' As John Wilmot: "Enough of balls my dear. / Bett er to carve you a slice / Of pie. For, all the poet said, / There's fuck-all fucking when you're ~~dead~~ dead." The 20th century offers nothing from bestiality to vibrators. And, predictably, Erica Jong's Lady Chatterley enjoys in Miller's iron bedstead "Such a clean person"; & Alexander Portnoy cuddled behind a billboard, Violet, a piece of raw liver on his way to his beautiful lesson. On the evidence here, feminists gained the freedom to write about sex, they have done no better than men.

The Love Feast: A Sexual Odyssey is the second volume of Anne Cumming's Memoirs. How does she remember each orgasm in such detail? Do the fake notes, post-coitally? Or is it simply the activity are unforgettable, the acts so athletic? Riding the pyramids, knickerbocker, she indulges proudly with her license: on horseback her taste are simple: "He has great at foreplay & once penetration began he was like an automatic drill."

a white response to the anti-war movement [illegible]

less than a third of the Kuwait population remained in the country throughout the Iraqi occupation. Many thousands were already living in their summer homes in London, Southern France & the United States. Many more, including almost all of the ruling Al Sabah clan, made a speedy exit from the Emirate to the Iraqi forces headed south. Although the widespread attachment to the notion of "national unity", post-liberation Kuwaiti society possesses little of the cohesion & strength derived from shared experience. Those who left very soon after the invasion have become defensive.

its regular contributor L.S., May 3, 1991

The editorial Committee of Les Temps Modernes made up its journal's [illegible] many "echo-chamber" to the Sartre-untying prodigality of Claude Lanzmann et al., cf. Les Temps Modernes: Temoins de Sartre, Jean Cau is characteristically succinct. He underlines Sartre's ideological & personal bent towards "Stalinism"; his tendency to view those outside the famille d'esprit as plotters. It is doubtful that Sartre will endure as a seminal philosopher. A philosophe is not necessarily a philosopher. The Chemins de la liberté is now scarcely readable. The once-avant-garde existentialism of Huis clos, Sartre's plays are already stone cold. Whatever support the Bastorian claimant to judge the facts, the Sartre-Beauvoir attitudes during the Nazi occupation were [illegible] the nauseating. After his visit to China, he not only opted for silence, but for manifest support of Mao. "Il est responsable ce qu'on ne fait pas s'efforce d'empêcher", thought Sartre. What irony! As he was Beijing-returned

the hearse on its way to the cemetery, a young boy approached & asked what this public demonstration was all about. When told, the answer the child received was "une manifestation contre la mort de Staline". Few men have had or have earned a finer epitaph.

Koestler was categorical: "the friend never declares his love" Emily Dickinson deservedly admonishes the linguistic affectation when the spouse of people who talk of "talking things about — & embarrassing Dog." In Hell, real friends "throw excrement at each other & command kinship on the grounds of their respective parents." Since we are quotation-hopping, it is time to interject Dumas fils's observation that "All generalizations are dangerous, even this one!"

Robert C. Tucker, Stalin in Power. Here lies the pearl inside the book's oyster — the record of Stalin's impromptu speech to a gathering of some members of his Politburo & the leader of the Communist International, Georgi Dimitrov, in Dec. 1937. He speaks to friends without any effort to manicure his words for public consumption. If any Bolshevik should betray the cause, he threatens, "we shall physically destroy him together with his clan." He speaks exactly like the 16th-century Tsar Ivan the Terrible, whose positive image has been effected, by his order, in textbooks & films. He meant what he said. When he had ~~Stalin~~ Trotsky killed, he also did what he could to kill his "clan" — including even cousins, nephews & casual acquaintances. "Well, what was I in comparison with Ilich [Lenin]?.. Lenin was an eagle & those famous fellows [Trotsky, Kamenev, Zinoviev, Bukharin, et al] were chickens. Let the eagle blow on them & the chickens scatter."

The Whole English language is white, affluent & phallogocentric

"Cultural Studies" is loose in the world. Once located in an embattled, somewhat legendary programme at the University of Birmingham (from the mid-1960s), it now seems to be all over the map. It is variously an interdisciplinary "approach" in many academic courses. In current debates "multiculturalism" & the "Eurocentric" canon, cultural studies is insistently invoked. This very proliferation & succession of obvious changes, particularly of lost intellectual focus & political edge. Cultural studies in Britain emerged with the New Left & theoretically supple neo-Marxism. As it becomes institutionalized in North American universities, will cultural studies become just another discipline (or interdiscipline)? Cultural Studies suggested a serious engagement with the social sciences & political acts—a less "literary" orientation. As John Beale points out sardonically, the discoveries of theirs are no less valid for having been made by dead White European Males (DWEMs). One of the most fundamental changes implied by Cultural Studies is the invalidation of science as a model for humanities teaching & research. It returns us, mutatis mutandis, to Leavis's & Snow's "Two Cultures". For Beale, the rejection of "metaphysical realism" is an error in logic. "If we are using words to talk about something, in a way that we expect to be understood by others, then there must be at least the possibility of some words that can be used to talk about." The possibilities are little more than Rorty's like entries in the occasional Stops for breath & the odd space left for an irritating printer

Re Mill belong to the series under the general title of L'Aventure intellectuelle de la France au XX^e siècle, ed by Thierry Paquot

TLS June 28, 1991

Does not make the Beggars Affair look like any more dubbed "intellectuals", & it is only in our century that they have exercised their fascination to the full. There have been Left-wing intellectuals (Romain Rolland), right-wing intellectuals (Maurras) & intellectuals who have moved across the spectrum (Péguy, Malraux). They have been Catholic (Bernanos), Protestant (Gide) & Jewish (Aron). They have made their names as novelists (Mauriac), essayists (Barthes), philosophers (Merleau-Ponty) & anthropologists (Lévi-Strauss). French intellectuals have been vain (Camus), foolish (Dreyfus), pedantic (Durkheim), inconsistent (Foucault) & all of the above (Sartre). They have been Communist (Aragon) & Fascist (Brasillach), engagé (De Beauvoir), unengagé (Paulhan) or, at various times, both (Benda). It is widely feared that the homo politicus intellectual is a dying species. Many people who pass for intellectuals in France today would not have met the more stringent tests applied in the past and the best evidence that French intellectuals have entered the twilight years of life is the fact that they have taken to writing their own histories. They have become, to an obsessive degree, the subject of their own professional activity (Christophe Prochasson, Les Années électriques 1880-1910; Daniel Lindenberg, Les Années souterraines, 1937-1947; Gil & Delanoi, Les Années militantes, 1968-1978. Ariane Chebel D'Appollonia, Histoire politique des Intellectuels en France: 1944-1954; Jean-Pierre Rioux & Jean-François Sirinelli, ed, La Guerre d'Algérie et les Intellectuels Français; Bernard Henri Lévy, Les Aventures de la liberté: une histoire subjective des Intellectuels. A curious feature of

this century has been its relative unconcern with ideas. Despite the fact that the object of investigation is people who think for a living, more interest has been directed towards what they did than what they thought. The Nazi experience in French intellectual history is the affair, in which intellectuals (initially in a pejorative sense) of the Right & Left who joined ranks to defend Degas, Dreyfus, & both in the constitutive ideal of republicanism & the Republic itself. After all, if Raymond Aron & Hannah Arendt could listen to Alexandre Kojève's lectures on Hegel & remain immune to the siren calls of Fascism, then we should be cautious in describing these same lectures as "crucial" in preparing the ground for the aesthetic sympathy for Fascism espoused by Georges Bataille & others. But even Aron & Arendt were years. Post-war intellectual France, the France of Sartre & Existentialism, was in many respects the 1930s in a new key, with a similar distaste for the compromises of mere democracy. Marcel Déat welcomed the advent of Sartre as a sign of the "irreversible Germanization of French thought". The "Algerian generation" now exercise a major influence in French intellectual life. With a better argument, they alone, it is sometimes suggested, did not compromise their moral position. Were too young for the temptation to collaborate with the authoritarian Right. Were only fashionably affected by the claims of Stalinism, & had found their own path by the time Madison & its-like appeared on the horizon. We, they seem to say, had no skeletons in our cupboard. By comparison with Lévy, the journalists & professors of the Algerian cohort are positively Baptist in

this self-effacement. Levy & the invisible Brad Pitt whom he then proceeds to dismantle with a display of scholarship & energy. All is drawn to the conclusion that he is a deeply shallow man. As to direct comparisons between Levy & his hero, Mark himself suggests the obvious fancy of reference; these may not be world-historical personages, but they too seemed curiously disposed to occur twice: the first time as tragedy, the second as farce. A perspective of gloomily oceanic proportions, the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda had previously written only of his feelings, but now found a cause beyond himself & public persona. The fascination is whether, lacking a conception of itself, it has anything worth regretting.

Terry Eagleton, Ideology. A man lay under a tree for 15 yrs, noticing that apples fell & apples that they fell when someone blew up with something else, & who did call a physician. Nor should we call Eagleton a theorist, literary or otherwise

The visual media are usurping the world of books: giving us a sound-byte attention span, splicing the conventions of narrative, making the very process of reading seem as archaic as travelling by horse-&-buggy. More is another way in which the imagination is being eclipsed by the image—& that is when books are given flesh. All of us know how difficult it is to read a novel once we have seen it on the screen; the ghost-images of the visual production intrudes on the one we're struggling with. Seeing a film after you have read the book is scarcely any better: suddenly the lovely Dorset peasant girl

who kept her company since youth in a German old-fashioned town of
Lüneburg you knew too much about. Even the author is often helpless before
this tyranny: John de Carlo has said that after seeing Emily played by three
actresses, he could not see him in any other terms. Many actors must come with
full-blown ideas about the author. The fine pleasure of reading has traditionally
been that the creation of an author as an imagined world to live in becomes, in a
sense, a fragment of our imagination. Nine days, the author's face is unfamiliar.
On Polo sweaters, on dust-jackets, on posters & on cable channels: his face
looks up from a 3-foot display, his voice is on the Walkman, & his talking head
is broadcast alive. Even when books do not show his face, movies & boxes do.
Some authors' faces are as ubiquitous as Lana Turner's or Campbell's soup. The book takes on
its maker's image. A Graham Greek or Henry James photo could be as cool & plain
as Thomas Pynchon novel without. Often, authors' photos commemorate nothing but
a writer's pose—the highest part of him is being reduced by the lowest-
denominator "look" & "look" are examples of the widespread use of banality." An advertisement in France engaged people "reflecting your appartement."

T.S. Sept. 27, 1991

3

Sir Denis Forman. To Reason Why records that he passed this friend, Lt-Col.
Lionel Kisham. At infantry group, as Major Creighton, commits entirely
officered by gentlemen, as Medical Daily seems to assume. He divided 22-
Man platoon, he disclosed, contains "6 gutful men who will go anywhere, do
anything, 12 "okay" who will follow a short distance if they are well led", &—

the final phase which Military Realists found intolerable. Finally — "4-6 Mc will run away." "It was not the ending for Jeb, of the enemy that needed greater hazard in battle". "We were thundered for weapons training, drill, field exercises, map-reading, but no guidance at all on the matter of how to make soldiers fight rather than run away." During a simulated attack, "all would go smoothly until the platoon commander leapt up to lead the assault & dashed forward only to find that half the assault force refused to move. This surprised him greatly because subalterns did not happen in Burma." Bergamini's lectures on "Panic & Hysteria" in no way disguised the horrors of running away, & were soon reaching the ears of General Montgomery. Appalled to be informed that his command had incurred a fairly large number of hopeless cowards, he blocked Bergamini's advancement. Forman ridiculed the obsolete weapons with which the Allied ground forces were encumbered. The "pathetic two-inch Mortar" had its counterpart in the portable Browning Automatic Rifle, an American relic of the First World War, dragged clumsily into the second to face the slick, rapid-firing, German light automatic weapons. The main theme of George L. Mosse's Fallen Soldiers: Reshaping the Memory of the World Wars is the techniques by which modern Europe, but especially Germany, has succeeded in "taking the sting out of war" by means of sentimental Memorial processes, many of them appropriating such pagan religious concepts as sacrifice, comrade, martyrs, shrines & pilgrimage. Journeys to military cemeteries combine fascism with piety. The institution of Unknown Warriors intended to mitigate the embarrassment of "the chippering of

human life & mass death. The Hitler Euphemism of Grandiloquent Nationalism.
"The Myth of the War Experience" romanticized horror & made the facts about the war unendurable. One German postcard depicts a howitzer emplaced atop a red-tiled roof. Another shows an astonished bunny, newly laid eggs nearby, gazing in wonder at a German tank which harmlessly invaded its turf. The message: Happy Easter. In the United States a few years ago Studs Terkel published a ~~bk~~, disillusioned collection of testimonies recalling the Second World War ~~in ostentatious quotation~~ entitled ironically "The Good War" enclosed in ostentatious quotation marks. The Antagonism continues between those who prefer to delete them & those who insist on their retention.

It cannot have been easy to have had Queen Victoria as a mother. She was a matriarch in the fullest sense of the word. She demanded absolute obedience from her children & never ceased criticizing them for not resembling their departed father. The Prince of Wales suffered most from her tyranny. She decided that his escapades had been responsible for the death of the Prince Consort & that he was not to be trusted to help her in any of her constitutional duties. "Queen Victoria Kaiserin reigns & will not let the son shine!" Deprived of enough serious work, the Prince took to a life of pleasure. His British aristocratic friends, very rich though many of them might be, had country seats & town houses to maintain & very little loose cash. Luckily, fortunately for him, the 19th century saw the emergence of a class of wealthy Jewish financiers, all eager to be admitted into the English fashionable world & English society. They were ready to pay for the privileges

He really has suffered enough scandals that Kept it back in Paris

friendship. When visiting India in 1875, he came to know the rich Rothschild clan of the Gastons, who were admitted into the circle. But it not till the 1890s that he met his 2 major benefactors, Baron Maurice de Hirsch & Sir Ernest Cassel who Edward VII was to be his closest friend for the remaining years of his life. The Prince to whom Cassell was a strong physical likeness, came to dread him almost as one of the family: Much inevitably revived the facile unproven story that the Prince Consort's true father was half-Jewish, & an alternative legend that Leopold somehow had Coburg blood. The Prince's sisters, fell into suffering from the Queen's domination, the first-looking & the most talented was Princess Louise, whom her Mother, wanting to keep a daughter in Britain married off to a German prince-ling, namely to Lord Lorne, the heir to the Dukedom of Argyll. The Queen, the last letter-writer of them all, is periodically disappointing of one or other of her children: King Alfonso, denied by the Vatican on the possibility of having his marriage annulled, but he never compromising such

Hester Lynch Piozzi's prolonged sojourn on the Continent, & all the scandal she did about it, splitting with her former friends, including most of the Johnson set. Her politics remained staunchly high Tory, & she followed the Napoleonic wars with a ready eye. There is an account, unusually frank for the time, of the symptoms of the menopause ("a Disposition to burst out into sudden Sweats, she never can them at; because the dainty Word is quite inadequate to my dripping Head, & wet Pocket-handkerchiefs after wiping off my Face... Dear I may possibly Cause at your Leisure."

American films consistently dope the sittings in Paris & the provinces
for subject the rules of a Man of Destiny.

Surprisingly, motherhood, & better child-bearing or child-rearing, did not become central to women's identity in Japan until the 20th century. Japanese women always worked, on the farms, in the shops, in the factories, just as they do today, though their labour remains unreflected in the idealized social mirror. The so-called Japanese woman is in fact a modern invention. Women in male-dominated societies probably lived more variously than the dominant social ethos decreed, & less freely than they might have wanted to — by their own lights & by ours. By the turn of the century, they were enjoined to become "good wives & wise mothers," legitimizing the enshrinement of motherhood as a cardinal virtue. The home was declared "a public place" & women became, in effect, "civil servants". Politics were forbidden them, as they were forbidden to teachers, soldiers & other public officials. Unfashionable among women of the Japanese invariably possessed buck teeth & myopic eyes, screened by thick-rimmed spectacles. They wore glasses, associated in Europe with the wealthy & the wise, adopted almost exclusively in Japan by lowly shopkeepers. After the Meiji Restoration of 1868, young revolutionaries urged the country to catch up with the West — just as the cast of the eyelids of the young, the "spectacularization" of society. By 1900, near-sightedness had become a national affliction. Just as buck teeth & spectacles were a proud sign of industrial progress, so Japanese equated the Meiji civilization with modernity: they became symbols of national development. In the 1890s, patriotic youth took to wearing "dragonfly glasses", exaggerated in size to emphasize their diligence in study, while government officials adopted spectacles in response to their visual needs, thus helping to engender the Western caricature of near-sighted Japanese.

P. J. O'Rourke, Parliament of Whores on Jesse Jackson: "How was this firebrand, this radical, this leader of an alienated & angry minority. And how he in jail? Was he in exile? Was he dead? He certainly would have been one of the three in any other nation-state in history. But no. He was being absorbed whole—left notions, vexed supporters & all—by the largest political organization in the U.S. He was tossing into a pot, another spin-mangling ingredient & twirled on, not more than one the plush." "In a democracy the Whores are us."

TLS, Oct. 4, 1991

La Fontaine, Oeuvres Complètes, Tome I, ed. J.-P. Collinet. The young Duke of Burgundy, grandson of Louis XIV, was overjoyed when he learnt that La Fontaine had repented of his tales & even renounced the royalties due on a forthcoming edition. He immediately sent a purse of 50 golden-louis to the poet & says that he considered "qu'il n'était pas raisonnable qu'il fût plus pauvre pour avoir fait son devoir." His action was entirely spontaneous, as reported the Oratorian confessor who had administered Extreme Unction to the 72-year-old fabulist & received his recantation in turn. Several of La Fontaine's fellow Académiciens were called to the bedside to witness the auto-da-fé of Feb. 12, 1693. La Fontaine confessed, "j'ai eu le malheur de composer un livre de Contes, infâme." The comma indicates the intake of breath, perhaps, the cost of the confession. He continued he had not realized the degree of the book's perniciousness, but now saw that it was "un livre abominable". He was angry that he had ever written it, & begged forgiveness of God, the Church & the

Academie for perpetuity it, he wished that it was in his power to withdraw all copies. If he survived, he would dedicate himself to penning only "ouvrages de piété." This is what gladdened the heart of the Duke of Burgundy, then 10 yrs old

If the conveniences of circumstances — clerical prejudice, ~~comical~~ comic story-telling a political safety — carries prolific echoes of Salman Rust Rushdie's predicament today, it is not in the least surprising. La Fontaine lived for another ten years, but his ~~panicky response~~ deathbed palinode can't be judged simply as a panicky response from a former Jansenian, who had left an Oratorian novitiate for only 18 months & had some written found of clerical defense. His retraction marks an important crux in literary history, a cardinal point in the establishment of official cultural authority, when the laughter of the secular, unruly medieval bouffon is silenced, stifled as licentious. The narrative poet of the risqué Contes has not become as familiar to schoolchildren as the canonical author of the Fables. The first two Contes were printed in Jan. 1664: "La Matrone d'Ephèse" after Petronius, & "Joconde" after Ariosto. Both tales deal of women's guilty work classical obsessiveness; to cuckold or be cuckolded emerge as the supreme defining enterprise of man. Though the Decameron dominates the Contes, La Fontaine sometimes adapted Gaits divers. Jean-Pierre Collinet's Pléiade edition gives La Fontaine's remarkable range of sources: some of the most familiar tales are Eastern in origin, & derive from the Sanskrit Pancha-Tantra, the legendary Brahmin Pilpay (or Bidpai) & the Lays de Marie. A cautionary tale, "The Dairymaid & the Pot of Milk" (after the cumulative English nursery rhyme, "For want of a nail the shoe was lost...") demonstrates the extraordinary degree of

communication between the Arab, Greek & Romance language-worlds of early
Modern Europe, on the verge of *Orientalisme*; the community of mythology &
Arabian Nights starting today. In a preface following the dedication to the Dauphin,
La Fontaine gives an illustrious genealogy for the form of the fable (Socrates, he
says, "employa ... les derniers moments de sa vie." rendering Aesop into verse)
As everyone knows, the *Fables* are full of comical models (e.g. "la raison du
plus fort est toujours la meilleure"). But La Fontaine proceeds here, too, by
indirection, as if through a maze, attacking tyranny in one poem, then covering
himself by reversing the parable of the stomach & its members, as a tribute
to monarchy. He does not quite let us know where he stands; like a Renais-
sance fool, he keeps peeping from behind a mask, with a grin & a bow.
Walt Kelly's Pogo calls his "extra-ligne de la négligence" can be seen in "Le
Chat et les deux moineaux" — the Ogden Nash-style feat of rhyming *Pénates*
(household gods) with *pattes* (cat's paws). Its heir apparent, the young Duke of
Burgundy, was given the verses by his tutor Fénelon as Latin translation
exercises. The *Fables*' message is a deep pessimism about human nature;
pessimism tends to leave the status quo in place, & works to stabilize
the property-owners.
Pascal Quignard's *Petits Traités*, 8 Vols. Language & literature were originally
founded on violence & sacrifice. Your books are bound with animal hide.
The paper you write on is the king's paper (from the Egyptian *papyrus* or "belong
-ing to the king"), the delete-sign you inscribe on a page of proofs derives from

from the Greek theta ("for "thanatos"), the sign used by Roman emperors to designate their victims; the etymology of Rancœur "dit la peau écorchée des visages des morts que les guerriers scythes prélevaient sur leurs ennemis." The cabinet de lecture suggests an activity "qui est nu, ou qui est intime, ou qui est sale, et qui nous inspire à nous-même de la honte"; for Nerval, only "un ramassis d'esclaves en révolte et de lâcheté lecteurs pudiques par honte, comme par lâcheté, lisent en cachette." Maximilien Littré, the architect of France's most famous dictionary, is there, with his wife in one hand & his little daughter in the other as he sets out on the longest journey of his life — from the Ile des Magcau-Sorbonne to the rue de l'Ouest, by way of the Luxembourg Gardens.

Socially, Heinrich von Kleist remained a self-acknowledged Misfit. His ambition to replace Schiller in Goethe's affection, & even to outstrip his classical Goethe, did not endear him to everyone. Least of all to Goethe himself, who could not accomodate such destructive homage. Amphitryon attacks the central tenets of Goethe's Humanität.

Christian de Diesbach, Proust. The neurotic insistence on the silence necessary for writing. Mme Straus's attempts to control the world's people about him: "Not one but three hotel rooms; requesting that his neighbour, the Katz, in the Boulevard Haussmann, have her builders clock on & off at times that fit in with his own bizarre programme of work; respecting the paper-hanging of the Rue Laurent-Pichat apartment, which he lived briefly before finding again

the Rue Hamelin. His erratic eating & sleeping habits, his sexual taste, the fantastic tipping & his unlikely dread of overcoats down to his brother Robert's wedding. Finishing 63rd out of 64 on a military training course may be no great distinction in the ordinary course of things but when it's Proust serving with the 76th Infantry in Orléans, 1890, that's not just a placing on a curriculum but a significant medical event. His hypnagogic, obsessive pursuit of active recollection. "Ce que je souhaite, c'est d'être lui." Under fire from Proust-Spellmen repeatedly spells out the restrictions afflicting the painting industry in the aftermath of the war. Proust was ever reluctant to adjust to the forces of external circumstances. When his ever faithful Céleste Albaret explained to his mother, recovering from her desire to go to church, she no longer thought of going to Sunday mass, Proust replied, "Céleste, dans-vous que vous faites quelque chose de plus beau et de très beau-grand que d'aller à la messe? Vous avez votre temps à soigner un malade. C'est infiniment plus beau."

In one respect French politicians were less prone to scandal than British or American ones, for exposure of their extra-marital affairs was not deemed to be a matter for resignation by a male electorate that condoned considerable standards of morality. The fall of Parnell would have been inexplicable to contemporaries in France. Financial scandals were different & potentially far more explosive. The enterprise of Ferdinand de Lesseps (builder of the Suez Canal, who wished to repeat his success in the isthmus of Panama. It was undercapitalized. In a desperate attempt to raise more capital, company officials took

Human is one of the few commodities in Russia never in short supply

Both politicians & journalists find it hard to obtain a lobby backed by the French Parliament. Jean-Yves Haller has dug dirt on all the principals in the drama, Roland Dumas "le grand Français" despite his incompetence is matched by his arrogance & his sexual appetite remained at the age of 64 & a 21-yr-old she proceeds to give 12 children without however, Mitterand's habitual visits to Maisons de rendez-vous
Dr Theodore Zeldin has shown, corruption has built into the fabric of democratic politics. Politicians & diplomats paid journalists both public & private for their silence. Business paid for advertising. Politicians distributed favors & their votes at election time. The political scandal, like the financial scandal, merely lifted the veil on what everyone suspected went behind the scenes. The embarrassment of those in power was purely temporary & left the régime essentially untouched.

Nancy Reagan seems to have retained a Hollywood starlet's sensitivity to the threat of being upstaged. Raisa Gorbachev is too well dressed & has too large a role in a country where women had such a hard life, she has too high a public profile in A society in which the wives of political leaders have traditionally been neither seen nor heard; she had tendency to lecture. Her father was a railway worker, her entry into Moscow University at the age of 17 in 1949 was entirely on merit, without the help of highly placed connections.

As Kathy Taaffe of The Soviet Mafia: "The whole political system of the country — in all its forms — for the past 70 yrs is itself a Mafia: a despotic totalitarian régime camouflaged bolshevik. The mafia, the criminal anti-state, is the state. The

Only Mafiosi had everything under control: the press, the police & the KGB. I personally don't believe in a miraculous transformation of a former Mafioso. "Mafia is immortal", they say in Italy.

68 Noel Coward's executors applied the most draconian measures by refusing permission to Clive Fisher to publish even a single song of his. The whole question of publication is considered by that section of the copyright act which invokes "a substantial part", without defining it. My Vincent Broome's £7 160,000-word biography of Havelock Ellis used a number of quotations from his books, which led to trouble that began as a warm relationship with the executrix, Françoise Delisle, quickly deteriorated into a bitter struggle. She had given me access to a hitherto unpublished material, but her appearance developed to the point where she demanded of my publisher, Mark Longman, that I be forced to abandon the book. The classic exhortation "publish & be damned" died on my lips after consulting the copyright lawyers. In the event, I had to wait 20 years until after Delisle died, & the threat of legal action was lifted. What is ideal definition of "a substantial part"? Publishers are not alone and/or defining it from 750 to 1,000 words. When Sonia Orwell asked Bernard Crick to write the life of her husband, he and his publishers Secker & Warburg signed a contract with us which granted him quotation rights in all material come what may. When Sonia objected to the finished work & tried to stop publication, Crick simply produced his signed contract, ignored the challenge & went ahead with publication. Gross haste is another weapon frequently employed

de preserve in aspic the idealized image of a dead relative. Commentary on the allegation in the Daily Mail of Lawrence Durrell's possible incest with his daughter Sappho was in the worst of taste & belied his personal reputation without damaging his work. Injunctions flew in all directions, one of them directed against the magazine Oz which last month published fascinating material from Sassoon's diaries. The judge decided that since Oz's publication period was so advanced, "on the balance of evidence" the injunction would not be granted. My biography of Aneurin Bevan remains unpublished for seven years because Bevan threatened to take legal action on grounds of libel. Among the allegedly libellous phrases, I had found Churchill's description of him as "a dyspeptic nuisance who is a real danger to security." This was delivered in retaliation to Bevan's description of Churchill as "a man suffering from petrified adolescence ... round a bright brave boy & fear has come into his eyes & vanity & rhetoric from his mouth." The battle between various biographers of Sylvia Plath & the Hughes family has produced a storm of acrimony.

The Allies rendered the Soviet Union unlimited military, economic & diplomatic aid without any real quid pro quo. Whether Roosevelt's policy was based on the false principle that "if I give Stalin everything I possibly can & nothing from him in return, he will be obliged, he will work with me & not try to annex anything".

Giovanni Boccaccio & Aldo Busi, Decamerone da un Italiano all'Altro. Nine cinque giornate. Busi's modernized version of the first 50 of Boccaccio's novelle. He is certainly not a conventional translator of Boccaccio into modern

Italian. Except for the introduction to the First Day, the entire narrative framework concerning the 7 female & 3 male storytellers, the pastoral interludes & moralizing digressions, are all omitted. For the most part it is more readable than Boccaccio's heavily classicizing prose. The translation is much more stylistic than linguistic. Vulgarisms are frequent, e.g. the old Ruggieri who falls in love with Malghenida dei Ghisolieri here speaks in his ancient accent (in Boccaccio he's "mature but"). Medieval courtly standards, Christian & humanistic ethics, appear side-by-side in the Decameron with an extreme sexual liberalism & an amoral glorification of intelligence & wit, produce a mixture that seems radically discordant. Boccaccio's original veils all this in a style of consistent classical polish & harmony. Bepi's language destroys the polish & harmony, & consequently the discordance underneath.

Elias Canetti, The Province of the Human: "A love letter from Sweden. Strindberg on the stamps." The Secret of Heart of the Clock à propos of his own aphorisms: "Es liegt Sätze wie Eier, aber es muß gut sein, daß sie gebrütet."

Ulrich Johannes Schneider, Die Vergangenheit des Geistes. Eine Archäologie der Philosophiegeschichte. While Kant in his old age was anguishing himself about the possibility of an "archaeology of human reason" down in the archives, Wilhelm Gottlieb Tennemann was starting work on the celebrated Geschichte der Philosophie, which was to take him 11 long years & 20 hard years to complete. He was the first to use this title in its modern

current sense. The real histories of philosophy were little more than self-interested works of propaganda, inventing a tradition in which contemporary philosophers could find an intellectual heroes.

Louis MacNeice, Autumn Journal, XIII. "Why bother to water a garden / That is planted with paper flowers?"

TLS: Oct. 11, 1991

There are many reasons why Plato's philosophers hence not often become kings. The most significant hurdle is illustrated in the Republic, where Socrates anticipates the task's unwilling. Such a person: "he will take society & human character as his canvas, & begin by scraping it clean... He will not consent to take in hand & either an individual or a state to draft laws until he is given a clean surface to work on or has cleaned it himself." As a job description, it has perhaps decidedly tended to attract the wrong type. The grand historical sweep of the political imagination of a Churchill, or de Gaulle, qualifies their writings as philosophical, at least in the broad sense. Mitterand has manifold literary interests of which he speaks often & with real, if sometimes overdone satisfaction. But this would deny that such men are politicians first & last. Ambitious "philosophes" have certainly stalked the sideline, glossing with their criticisms, strategies & projects. But it is rare for them to be invited on to the playing field, & rarer still for them to succeed once there. In recent Europe, political power has all too often been the province of Admirals, Generals & Marshals of dance doubtful standing in their trade, & for whom politics has been

The continuation of his by other means". Everyone & then, an intellectual has
his found himself in his genuine sea-price, elevated to prime Ministerial
or presidential office, expected to perform how the Official problem that role is spokesman
for the nation which has for so long fallen to the intellectual in this part of Europe that
which has usually been understood from behind a typewriter or inside a prison
cell, e.g. Nicolae Manescu K. Václav Havel, The Power of the Powerless. The
upper-bourgeois background allowed him, in his words, to see communism "from
below", & it also kept him from ever joining the Party. His occupation, has he
been able to practise it, is that of playwright. He was next influenced by
Eugène Ionesco, Jean Genet, Samuel Beckett & Harold Pinter, with perhaps not
to many. Daily life is turned into a state of siege: his argument with Milan Kundera
dates from 1968 & still dismiss "Human beings must pay for the attempt to abolish
God & the attempt at to play at being God." He claims that the "lie" embraces not
only Communism, but also Modernity: progress, industrialism & even rationality
itself. Negativism, he tells us, the totalitarian system is a "Control Mirror" held up
to all modern technological civilisation. He has been accused of cronyism, & there is no
doubt that many his political, diplomatic & administrative appointments have been
spectacularly unsuccessful & inappropriate. His taste for pseudo-opportunities runs to
the exotic.

R.N.B. St Leger, Ne James. "Really universally acknowledged truths about Western," as
Henry Jane-Jenkins said, did not get published, by any family relations. The
Rev. James Lucas learned of his legacy from his wife's father, who was also a lawyer

An actor's life rosy & rose above small pasts. "Spirits & laughter" & "illustrious romance & a short-lived mpnage. Closes his text with famous names.

Murmured — "Leisured for life" He was in favour of "a dissolution or disorganization of the old forms"; & he cut off his most important work "The Redeemed Form of Man". The "stream of consciousness" is William James & Henry's preoccupation. Henry wrote to Wondsor "The effort to touch all my life I have unconsciously pragmatised."

19th-century French readers were fascinated by Pierre-François Lacenaire, guillotined in Paris in Jan. 1836. Hugo & Gautier both wrote about him, & Jacques Rivière, the careful editor of his Mémoires et Autres Écrits, wrote a good case for him in place of Lautréamont's Chants de Maldoror of 1869. He had begun stealing from his father, went on as a young man to issue false promissory notes. He moved from theft to forgeries & murder. He decided on dandyism, elegant food, literary fame & Crime. His trial that Baudelaire did not describe as that so neatly fitted many of his own concerns. He was like Jean Genet & his age. Like Napoleon, this criminal was romantic in his temperament & classical in his taste. His decision to kill & to be killed - He seems to have been at his happiest while awaiting execution at the Conciergerie, where he chatted with journalists, ate pâté, drank champagne, smoked Havana cigars, & entertained English tourists. He was distressed to think that the jury might hand down a verdict of life imprisonment, & dearly he wanted to kill himself if he received a pardon. He ascended to the guillotine.

Tocqueville's reaction to Socialist ideas: "Take any name whatever name you like, any name except that of democrats. That I forbid you to take. For you do not deserve it. — How then could democracy be equal and free? No, it is equal slavery."

de Concourts jacquerie, they are more proper than the Pope. American French historians think of themselves as the aristocrats of the profession. Given the disadvantages — is there any library as inefficient & frustrating as the Bibliothèque Nationale? — become a badge of service de confrère, a kind of combat ribbon. Their second patrie began Weber: "France must be a historian's paradise ... one big rock candy mountain." Weber began life as Romanian, before becoming an Englishman & then an American. He served some years in the British army; then picked up his education at Cambridge, where he got a second in part one of the History Tripos. This was bad news; he needed a first to get scholarship to do doctorate. So he went off to Paris for a year to prepare part two, & then brought home a first. He never got a Cambridge doctorate. So he came to the United States, got a job at UCLA. Who sang the "Marseillaise?" he asks, & tells us that it was not heard until the end of the 19th century that this "vicious, patriotic, revolutionary song of one political faction had, in effect, become the song of France." Modern medicine came belatedly. "Doctors remained few & healers numerous." As the old French song has it, "les docteurs valent mieux que la raison." I would describe Weber the historian as mostly hedgehog with a strong admixture of fox-hunter. For he knows the tale, but he also knows the exceptions. The Marquis de Morès, swashbuckling adventurer, black sheep, crack shot, bully boy, was a precocious anti-Semite. But when he made money, he borrowed on at least two occasions from Jews: pecunia non olet.

Geoffrey Hughes, *Swearing*. He classifies the five disparate genres of English oaths: swearing by, swearing that (something is so), swearing to (do something), swearing at (somebody or something) & swearing simply out of exasperation. It does not

it began people used to swear by or to the two sacred objects "Thy" the most sacred word in English not started with the letter 'b' or 'f', for reasons it took are not easily explained. could it be that bilabial plosives & fricatives are most satisfactory phonetic expression of emotional release?" "the great abracadabra behind most medieval swearing was Christianity." "Mahound" a corruption of Mahomet. Although Edward III expelled Jews from England in 1290 & they were not readmitted until 1665 under Cromwell's rule, the Prioress's Tale, Marlowe's Jew of Malta & Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice, Fagin in Dickens' Oliver Twist is a continuation of this tradition, though Riah in Our Mutual Friend & Daniel Deronda, the hero of George Eliot's novel, are idealized characters (cp. are Isaac of York, & his daughter Rebecca in Scott's Ivanhoe). Queen Elizabeth, like her father, is reputed to have employed strong language in public speech & private conversation ("Godso Woundes" was apparently one of her favourite oaths), & it was not Puritanism that effectively restricted "Act to Restraine Abuses of Players" was not passed until after her reign, in 1606. This outlawing of profanity on stage led to an increase in the invocation of pagan deities & to the bowdlerization of "mild" oaths like "Jog", "Cokk" & "Cot" (euphemisms for "God", "Odsbobs" (Godsbobs), "Zounds" (Gods Wounds). Restoration licentiousness, reacting against Puritan censorship is epitomized by Rochester with his oaths for "the Barony Scent of Salt Arabia Cunt". But it was at the period when Puritanism was virtually in the ascendant that Hoyer had his learned, high-minded translation of Gargantua & Pantagruel published.

Make the name of Marxism stink to high heaven.

Even Browning tells a violater of "decency", albeit unwittingly. He had apparently read the acerbic 17th-cent. couplet "Why talk'd of his having a Cardinalles Hat, / They'd sooner see him as soon on Old Nicks Twat," & naively thought the offensive word alluded to some item of clothing. His Pippa Passes perpetrates an amusing bit of cockney: "Hen eggs & bats / Cats & sprats." Henry Mayhew's London Labour & the London Poor sanctified the demotic as part of the time. Farmer & Henley's A Dictionary of Slang & its Analogues, issued in 7 vols. from 1890 to 1904.

TLS, Oct. 18, 1991

Martin Bernal's Black Athena, vol. I (1987) aroused intense comment, & hijacked the author's life. He is close to being a one-man university. If he avoided his own degrees, it would be outrageous. In a sense, all subjects begin with the amateur. To despise the amateur is often to close the door to progress. His thesis is that the civilization of ancient Greece, which is seen as the origin of all that is European & good, was essentially a colony of the older civilization of Egypt & the Near East. He reminds us of something that the modern West has tried to forget: the Greeks themselves believed this & saw it as their origins. Racism & bigotry have created our own debt to the Middle East. Post-Renaissance centuries defined Egyptology as the study of Greek & Latin on purposes, ignoring the fact that the Egyptians invented their material some 3,000 years before the Hellenic. Bernal's Egyptian & Semitic invade & colonize early Greece, & teach it the arts of civilization which it has not acquired by itself. Earlier in this century, it was believed that Egypt in its 18th dyna-

* Another example is Japan before the Meiji period.

learnt civilized ways from the Babylonian invaders: but Rome, after all, was invaded by hellenized Greeks & it borrowed culturally. The notion of colonialism impelled by a Western civilizational is itself a 19th-century one, & implies that a culture can become civilized only at the point of a Gatling gun or some other advanced technology aid. Volume II takes the matter further. The ancient Egyptians, or at least some of their rulers, were black. European civilization is therefore the creation of black Africans. The ancient Egyptians can be described as light-brown Africans. However, the concept of light-brown Africans is unlikely to catch on, though light-brown Africans can number among them St Augustine & Colonel Gaddafi. The Greeks can be light-brown Europeans.

In Rosemary Ashton's G.H. Lewes: A Life Mr George Eliot encounters Lewes. Writing to Sara Hennell in 1856, George Eliot advised: "Let me say once for all that you must not impute any opinions to him, nor vice versa." The radical publisher John Chapman was puzzled by Lewes's "strange escapade in ... retiring to the continent with the personally unattractive Miss Evans ..." Elizabeth Gaskell, shortly after the discovery that Lewes's Clerical Life & Adam Bede were by Marian Evans, thought Lewes "so fond of a woman older than himself". Both comments invoked Lewes's sexual reputation, which largely derived from the open marriage that he & his young wife Agnes Jervis had conducted. Certainly Lewes & George Eliot underwent an extraordinary transformation in the

course of their life together, but it took a very long time. When it came, the tardy acceptance was due not only to George Eliot's novels but to Lewes's work in scientific circles. John Lee Lewes had two families, one legitimate, one bigamous, & George Henry Lewes was the youngest of the second family. Soon after George's birth, his father left home. The elder Lewes was believed by his son to have died in 1819, whereas he continued to live as a customs officer in Bermuda until 1829, having the office of Registrar of Slaves conferred on him in 1827. Agnes Lewes, whose father Alexander Jervis, was a radical MP in whose house Lewes spent some time, perhaps as tutor to his children, was pretty, charming, a good housekeeper, a happy mother, formed an intense attachment & sexual bond with Thomas Hunt. She had seven children by Hunt after the death of her fourth child by Lewes. She long outlived the other participants in the story: Thornton Hunt, who, revealingly, the son of Leigh Hunt & was Lewes's intimate friend. Ashton is even-handed in his treatment of the two men. Among writers in London during the 1850s, anti-bourgeois living patterns were not uncommon — witness John Chapman with his wife & his two lovers living in the same house, both jealous of Marian Evans; Meredith, Mary Peacock Meredith & the painter Wallace, though that triangle ended tragically enough; Rossetti. Meredith's relationships, though, still took for granted double standards for men & women. Lewes betrays an understanding of sentiment about the mutual freedom that he & Agnes also enjoyed. He travelled with Charlotte Brontë in 1850 over his review of Shirley. It opens with the declaration "that "the grand function" of woman ... is & ever will be, Maternity. ... What should she do with a leader of the opposition in the 7th month of her pregnancy? ... or a chief

justice 107th device?" He admired George Sand, true enough, but in his 1844 account of Sand & Balzac he used a curiously phallic language to describe women fiction readers. Balzac: "He should be strictly forbidden to young women." Zola's sensitivity & his conviction that he was not an experimental doctor did not prevent him from keeping his mind open to emphasize the role of dissection & observation in his later work. He rarely comments directly or allusively in his essays on George Eliot's work. He established the term "anthropomorphic" as an analytical tool in English. Instead of using it to interpret God as a key like many the other sense of the word), Zola used it & the tendency to attribute human qualities to other creatures & forces (e.g. in Sea-Side Studies, 1858)

Sorrel, although beautiful & intelligent, was an intellectual groupie in love with the latest idea & whoever happened to embody it. She may have married Octave out of admiration as well as pity, but Julien Sorel he was a deplorable mistake by the cause of her emotional problems. Gallimard now permanently discharged the Zola author, but also ensured that somebody he saw as a potential money-spinner.

"It is clear that for much of the century the Nobel Prize for literature has gone to men of the Left, or rather, from a certain element of the Left in the widest & most honorable sense of the term as a protest against social injustice", wrote Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie in The Nobel Century: A Chronicle of Genius. In his general introduction, Åsa Berggren admits that "the first writer chosen for the Literature Prize in 1901 Sully Prudhomme," attracted little interest." Tolstoy

was not even nominated when the following year he was awarded the prize he refused it." Indeed, the first Nobel Literature Prize-winner who stands out in retrospect is Rudyard Kipling (1907), admits Asa Briggs. "Many great 20th-century writers have not won the Nobel Prize for literature. Indeed the list of the non-winners, who include Henry James, Joseph Conrad, Mark Twain, Marcel Proust, Thomas Hardy & James Joyce, is as impressive as the list of those who did." Add a few names to the roster of the disappointed—Kafka & Nabokov, say—it begins to seem much more impressive than the roll-call of the honoured. In 1969, it seemed possible that Nabokov might after all win the prize. As the time for the announcement approached, he received a request from *Life* magazine to be alerted as soon as there was any news. "Then in late October the Nabokovs fielded a call from Sweden. "Stockholm calling ... Stockholm calling" they heard—& the connection broke. After moments of mounting expectation, the call came through again—a woman who wanted help with her thesis. The story is told in the second volume of Brian Boyd's fine biography, *Vladimir Nabokov: The American Years* (1922). Dean Acheson ascribed the title of his memoirs, *Present at the Creation*, to Alfonso X, King of Spain (1252-84): "Had I been at the Creation, I would have given some useful hints for the better ordering of the universe."

T.L.S., Oct. 28, 1921

Woman owned in part a hair appointment shop to the craft of poetry.

Germaine Greer, *The Change: Women, Aging & the Menopause*. She is on top form when she publicizes the marriage manuals that advise women how to be sexy in the twilight years. Being unintimidated in many ways Greer has not thought that the aging wife, as

rem of Griffiths Letters & Reports, Regular State hand-outs to keep you up

Kell being part of the old boy, may just want to keep him around rather than give him to run his liberties at a later stage. Because, as she also points out, life does become unfair when the sexual opportunities of older men & older women are compared (& profits for women still nearly really certain). The humorless pages of Simone de Beauvoir.

In 1940, when England stood alone as champion of the united freedom of the Western world, European refugees from persecution were temporarily classified by the land of liberty as "enemy aliens" & sent to internment camps on the Isle of Man. Armelle Montgiraud, disciples from his Parisian professorship had found safety in Oxford with the help of the Society for the Protection of Science & Learning. He was called to the Oxford police station to be interned, asked to empty his pockets. From one of them emerged the book he was currently reading — J. S. Mill's On Liberty. Any attempt at a history based on the continuity of liberal values has been definitely discredited in 1819 by the famous essay of Benjamin Constant's De la Liberté des anciens comparée à celle des modernes, which pointed out that the ancients had no conception of the liberty of the individual. The claim to freedom, in the past as now, has often involved an exception of superiority & included a belief in the right to oppress & exploit others, whether politically or (more commonly today) economically. The experience of slavery lies behind the construction of the idea of freedom in ancient Greece. For the Greeks, freedom & slavery are antithetical concepts, each defined in relation to the existence of the other. Freedom in Western history was locked in an antithetical embrace with its opposite, personal slavery, political powerlessness, tyranny.

Poetry & novel prize always on the verge of the Arts Council of Britain's interests. Indeed for the 1st 20 yrs of its life the Council's definition of "the arts" did not include literature at all, & it was not until 1965 that the first "Literature Director" was directed. The total annual ACGB allocation to Literature was less than 0.5 per cent of the available grant in aid. For a while, members of the Literature panel undemocratically distributed the available grant aid to themselves & their close literary friends. Money was allocated, amongst other things, to the translations of English works of fiction into Urdu, & the republication of the forgotten works of W. Graham Lewis. The irony of having an Eminence award for enhanced literary activity given in the name of "Literature & Money"

In 1983, Paul de Man died in office, in person to the last as Harvard's & the world's Yale Deconstructionist. In 1987, he was disgraced, unable to have contributed pro-Nazi articles to a collaborationist Belgian paper when he was a young journalist in Brussels. De Man's friends & followers were shocked, but to say baffled, by this exposure. In an infamous act which has more than 30 yrs in the U.S. he had never confessed to or even discussed. But there were many in the academy who were appalled by the revelations of his delinquency, which was an attempt to get back at a non-democratic, immoral culture & his immoral teaching. Paul de Man's glacial opportunism was shown in his flying a Nazi flag over occupied Belgium & then in abandoning his first wife & two children. He went to free himself for a new life in the U.S.

Bill Bryson, Mother Tongue. The Story of English. Unlike the back colloquial American & formal clean-up English, immune to the horrors of Mao-Tourism; in Florence "the annual ratio of drinks to locals is 14:1". In Paris these are pissoirs "designed to let the whole world see what's in there & what he's doing." "I remember once watching a man & two women... carrying on an animated three-way conversation while the man was standing in one of these contraptions." The American, preoccupation about every possible act of sexuality, are coy about waste-disposal. No country has a monopoly on organized cruelty. It wasn't the Germans who pioneered Hiroshima & Nagasaki, napalmed & defoliated Vietnam, dirty-bombed Afghanistan, & tortured alive detainees @ Iraqi soldiers.

T.L.S., Nov. 8, 1991

Douglas Porch, The French Foreign Legion now tells me everything I've ever wanted to know & several things I wanted to know & several things that I never thought to ask. Louis-Philippe created the French Foreign Legion in 1831 "to clear France of foreigner & turbulent elements." Being a haven is all very well, but it costs money & fosters disorder, & the presence of political economic refugees from Italy, Poland, Belgium & especially, the German States aggravates police & economic problems in France. The refugees too often turned into vagabonds, delinquents, or public nuisances. Let them be gathered up in a Foreign Legion that could at least put to use by pacifying Africa (i.e. Algeria), annexed in 1830 & still untamed. Africa a trap soldiers, & the French discovered little enthusiasm in colonial enterprise

Sparing with her conscripts, France set about shovelling in her political refugees, foreigners she had conveniently her welcome, misfits of every sort. The Legion has sometimes first & foremost as a social safety-valve, absorbing the sweepings of the country, unemployed, unemployable troublemakers, but adventurous spirits too. Unpromising material, but usually invaluable; led by men almost as egregious as themselves, sometimes more so. Their ~~task~~, of course, was a hard job. Most of their charges had lost nothing left to box, good fighters, hard soldiers, malicious, touchy & insolent. The general rule, even today, was one Military as in the disciplinary code. Training included little drill, much route work, boxing & gymnastics. Punishments were usually harsh but short. Beatings, of course, but also standing with only the head showing, la crapaudine, whose bizarre fiction disposed the pains of hell; or more imaginative penalties, like the habitual drunk tied to a bar next to a waterhole frequented by a tiger, or the man suspected of stealing Lt Colonel Mackenzie's baggage who was dropped down a well by ropes tied only to one finger of each hand & thumb until he revealed the whereabouts of his loot. The marches were endless, 20 miles & more a day in full kit & hobnailed boots, carrying 70 to 80 lbs & slogging through marsh or sand dunes or ravine while singing German marching songs. Despite the creation of a mounted corps—two men to a mule—the Legion was always an army of foot-sloggers. The preponderance of Germans (34 per cent in 1904) & Germans-speakers from Alsace or Lorraine, alongside every other nationality including Frenchmen. Patriotism & attachment to France were rare & as a rule, discouraged.

The Légion's banner carried not Honneur et Patrie but Valeur et Discipline & the reckless bravado cries "Vive la Mort." On parade got 30 days in the guardhouse for his public spirit. What they lacked in armament & battle skills they made up in courage, tenacity & ferocity, to the point that the fighting for the Légion as against it was almost equally deadly: When not Killing to be Killed, Légionnaires provided cheap labour: draining Marshes, building roads etc. Casualties were high: more than 9/10 of them due not to Combat but disease. What is intriguing is that all this was endured for so little reward. Pay before 1914 seems to have been one sou a day, & pension two francs a day. Légionnaires hung in streets or cafés, begged & of course stole what they could. Drink was both physical consolation & some drank to conform, & many drank to forget, for forgot to drink. Not even disputed after the battle of Magenta (1859), when the French won - each had all-you-can-drink, so many bodies drowned in wine that it proved hard to tell the dead from the dead drunk. The BMC (Bonded Militaire Contrôlé) proved pretty more tempting than the sullen dregs of the Soupe. Unsurprisingly, the Légionnaire's major problem was less hardship than boredom, and it was to get away from active idleness that deserters deserted in impressive numbers. French colonial administrative practices made for a unique shabby record. When these men were discharged for medical reasons or for completing their term of service only to be arrested for vagabondage or lack of papers & expelled from the country they served. Not that the French discouraged recruits. As the French Second Consul Rosso Rosso illustrate, the outbreak of hostilities swamped the Légion with

TLS, Nov. 29, 1991, Letter from Thomas Timoney: "The Indivisible BMC did not stand for Bordel Militaire contrôlé, as Mr Tibbs says, but for Bordel militaire de campagne, a mobile hotel to be as distinguished from the fixed brothels to be found in most garrison towns outside Metropolitan France".

Recruits, but the wrong recruits. In 1914, the oddballs like Cole Porter or Julien Green only passed through their way to other units, and those who served the many students, idealistic Jews, intellectuals like Blaise Cendrars, men who wanted to fight for France, when the Legion wanted men who would obey orders & follow the soldier's trade. Ex-Vichy generals, commanded Free French, stained all the Legion (all Reds & Jews) of American arms supplies, & made sure that some French were born thereafter. Even as they were fighting their way to the Italian peninsula, the mastering of those battles demanded African troops proved of great advantage on rugged terrain. Though they participated in the Victory parade of 1945, the Légionnaires found only lukewarm respect. In Indochina, the campaign the men who made Matoré by the competence of their leaders. The French have pretty consistently banned or censored films about the Foreign Legion, not least the 1939 version of Beau Geste. "The French Foreign Legion is only as good as its worst German Legionnaire." Forever aliens, sufferers for a fatherland; par mort and of self regard or the neglect of the others. They produced such a sustained record of record performance; & when their presence for last stands & frontal assaults was acceptable, because the Marines & the dead were foreigners who did not vote. They died with panache reminiscent of the Légionnaires' Military lives.

Nikhil Roman & Alex Perry, Living Together Separately: Arabs & Jews in Contemporary Jerusalem: "In earlier history, the population was separated with 4 quarters in the old walled city: Muslim, Christian, Jewish

& Armenian. These quarters still exist as social entities, not as fully demarc-ated along communal lines than ever. The older or theatre, now nearly a third of the Jewish population, are almost as separate from other Jews as the Arabs. Most of them are non Zionist; some are anti-Zionist; an extreme fringe openly support the PLO. Their children do not serve in the Israeli army, the great social solvent of Israeli Jews. Their lingua franca is still Yiddish not Hebrew. In general, they are the least assimilated of the Jewish population. The "blackcoats", as they are sometimes called, live in their own clearly defined districts. Unlike secular Jews, they do not practise birth control & typically possess families of 6 to 10 children. Many of the orthodox Jews do not give two hoots about "unity". If they could choose between a united city as it is now or a divided city in which they might be the dominant element on the Jewish side, able to prohibit traffic on the Sabbath & enforce other such measures, they would prefer the Arab districts (except sites of Jewish religious significance) without demur. And most Muslim Arabs, faced with a choice between unity under Israeli rule or a divided city in which they were their own masters, would not hesitate a moment.

"More than 20 yrs ago I dedicated a book to you that was a testimony to our Concordia discors: of a friendship formed out of spiritual collaboration, & therefore of discussion. ... But that old book no longer lives in my soul; & I therefore feel the need to inscribe your dear name at the top of this one." Giovanni Gentile's dedication of his magnum opus, the Teoria generale dello spirito come atto puro, is an eloquent affirmation of a remarkable intellectual relationship. Together with Croce, he dominated

Italian culture during the first half of the 20th century. Five years after after Gentile wrote these words, they ceased all direct communication. In the aftermath of the rise of Fascism, they split. Italian scholars have invariably separated Gentile's Fascism from his philosophy. There has been no comparable debate about that prompted by Heidegger's support for Nazism. Yet Gentile's involvement with Mussolini's regime was far closer than Heidegger's with Hitler's, since he even drafted the Enciclopedia Italiana's entry on Fascist doctrine, to which Mussolini put his name.

This complicity with Fascism caused his subsequent assassination by partisans. Eugenio Garin, the latest editor of his Opere Filosofiche, has long been of the opinion that Gentile's politics can be distinguished from his philosophy. His "actualism" represents the subjective extreme of idealism & & Croce has a natural claim to be a member of the opposition; attacking Fascism gave him a new lease of life. He was also ten years Gentile's senior & made his mark first. An autodidact with no formal philosophical training, he had pursued his own pioneering archival research on Neapolitan popular culture.

For Kate Field, the young woman from St Louis, Fo Trollope struck a romantic attachment until his death. Kate, after doing quite well on the stage, found her true métier on the American lecture circuit & in the publicity world gotte emancipated women. She never married, & clearly found Trollope's comfortably married state & avuncular disposition respectful & unthreatening.

Whether or not you see yourself as Kate Millett's *The Loony Bin Trip* is the fact that, as this reader, while still a graduate student at Columbia, the author published

fatwa: death to Salman Rushdie. Islamic edict/death sentence (execution everywhere/sentence to be carried out by the law/any Moslem)

Shashi Tharoor: "India is not an underdeveloped country, but a highly developed one in an advanced state of decay"

Sexual Politics — one of the formative books of the last quarter century. In it, she attacked "patriarchy". Our society, she said, is dominated by men; "dominant theories of literature, painting & talent at every turn. It is the institution of the family which is primarily to blame. In the years since, there has been an attack on masculinity as "phallocentricity" all its forms, & in the wake of that attack a cry: the family is demolished, but nothing put in its place. In her new book she writes describes her realization that, all along, she has been obsessed with her father, & that the notion of her obsession has been inaccurate. He abandoned wife & three daughters & had another family. Decades later, Millet buys a horse for her farm, a gelding, & names it after her father. "It recalled the Man I hated after in childhood": "An adolescent dying curiously about the wonder between his legs, hidden by custom, ... having missed sight of my father's red genitals, an inch glimpsed between the folds of his shorts as he changed clothes before his bath, after a day building roads, have I found again in your grand black hanging cock beneath the hem of that tired athlete?..."

15 Michael Shelden, author of the latest biography, Orwell: Sonia Brownell had a genuine desire to help Orwell during his last illness, & was pleased to be kept in his literary affairs, but she did not love him. She was in love in the French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty, with whom she began an affair during a business trip to France with the publishers of Horizon, Peter Watson. Merleau-Ponty, who was married & did not wish to continue the affair, but only a few months after Orwell's death, Sonia went to France & did everything she could to win the French philosopher's

forming a Bangkok outfit with AIDS & drugs. His Mother treated ladies.
Living Literary criticism as a kind of Gender tournament, she operates
as Mediator. A Knight, so to his friends, who eventually makes it to
Harvard.

Eric. She failed. When she married Orwell — in October 1949 — she knew that she
already lost work her job at Horizon, which ceased publication at the end of 1949, & no
other jobs were in sight. Her father which when she was very young, & her mother operated
a small boarding house in London. She fought a costly engagement ring for herself
Orwell's money also enabled her to visit Merleau-Ponty at St Tropez in 1950.
A holiday on the Riviera was not cheap.
A troublesome complaint, diagnosed as "rheumatic gout", became Wilkie Collins's
permanent & increasing fortune, alleviated only by massive doses of laudanum.

Also TLS, Nov: 15, 1991

Conrad described himself as "a Polish nobleman cased in British tar."
Publishers like to think of themselves as having both "head for business"
a keen eye for literary quality; they now & then succumb to the illusion
that they have come on a writer who is a genius that also an excellent business proposition
A language of pleasing clarity, of rapid invention & ironic buoyancy. It might
well call this voice the unbearable lightness of style. The worst of place will
turn this unbearable lightness into unbearable heaviness
We have had many Soviet political conspiracies. Practically every struggle for
the succession from Lenin's death in 1924 through to Gorbachev's own
appointment as party leader in 1985, has involved a piece of skullduggery.
The events of October 1964 & August 1991 have similarities. Both Khrushchev
& Gorbachev were holidaying by the Black Sea when the coup struck. G. is

political rise began in a Communist Party led by K. who was just a young Soviet generation in the late 1950s & 60s. The idea that his version of Leninism would rid the USSR of Stalinist distortions of socialism. The KGB was strong at first only under the party's control, & above all, K. promised that Soviet material living standards would shortly overhaul those of U.S.A. K. brought Soviet Union into disrepute at the United Nations by banging his shoe on the table while Harold Macmillan was orating. He nearly triggered a World War by trying to place nuclear missiles on Cuba in 1962. The coup against him was well planned. Nikolai Ignatov's factotum found what his master was up to, & alerted K's son Sergei, who passed the news on to his father & to the latter's associate Anastas Mikoyan. K. acted like a duma; he casually enquired of his plotting colleagues whether a plot existed. They denied all knowledge, & K. left unconcernedly for the Black Sea. K. told the Czechoslovak Communist leader Klement Gottwald who declined to inform Stalin that he hoped that his country be permitted to join the USSR as the 16th republic. Stalin graciously refused. All the time K. pondered his place in his place in the history. He was a forgiving soul, & proud of the fact. He reminded anyone of who cared to listen that, when he removed the Stalinists from the Party leadership, he pushed them into lowly jobs; they were not shot; & in retirement they kept their pensions & their apartments. The KGB remain untouched by reform, the state within a state which became the Communist Apparatchik's last stronghold. Mr Gorbachev lied to the West that all prisoners of

Conscience has been free. He desired to present a decorous Anglican façade, a face-lift in order to make it more presentable to the Lord. However, in granting his people a little freedom he miscalculated; he had not realized that a peculiar substance called freedom is—like a gas which fills any vessel into which it is introduced. He was trying to make his country "a little pregnant."

John Gross in his afterword to the new edition of *The Rise & Fall of the Man of Letters* (Penguin Paperback). Anonymity was still in force. The Inquisitors, high priests of academics among the most articulate servants, I was simply saying what the facts of literary democracy imply. Theorizers are still in a minority. But since the 1970s they have made a good deal of the running, & have been highly successful in dictating the terms ("you can't challenge a theory with a counter-theory") & presenting themselves as the cutting edge of the subject. There is the sheer unparalleled quantity of theory that has come rolling off the assembly lines in recent years, the startling proliferation of doctrines, & calculated elitist perspective. Strategies: you could spend half a lifetime mastering what has already been written; then you would have to start catching up all over again. The growth of theory seems to be an index of the ambitions of theory & the determination of the cuckoo to oust the rest. The pretensions & designs of the theorists are nowhere more apparent than in their terminology. Deliberate obscurity & high sound: Just. What is meant by "Il n'y a pas de hors-texte"? In the kingdom of literary theory the author's role is reduced to that of a meeting-point of external forces; the text itself is no longer "the protected container of meaning". Everything is up for interpretation, grabs. In this book *Beyond Deconstruction* Howard

Feleperin spells out the position with commendable candour: "Deconstruction relinquishes any claim to status as science, just only to make an equally ambitious or pretentious claim to status as literature. Criticism has always made this claim implicitly, festively, embarrassedly. ... In destructive criticism that claim comes out publicly; the writer inside the critic comes out of his closet." The upgrading of the critic applies strictly to theorists; needless to say, it doesn't confer any benefits on the non-theorizing men of letters. Both our critics & their colleagues plainly find Derrida bewildering in the very measure of a man of letters, the more responsibly & serious critic operating outside the academic fold. An academic closed shop poses a threat not merely to avant-garde freelance, but to any & the best literature

LLS, Nov. 22, 1991

Ecological crisis & the urgent sense that science is losing its public have reinvigorated Scientistic talk. In 1926, Julian Huxley, the master of popularization, warned against a "lamentable divorce" between science & the public": "scientists will become an isolated caste in a half-hostile environment." "Unless they invent & enforce adequate measures for controlling the quantity & population & at least prevent the deterioration of quality of racial stock, they are doomed to decay & to be submerged in some barbarism of the future." He endorsed scientific eugenics "the more rapid the process of denaturalization, the greater is the damage." Scientists do not always welcome accounts of their work which address the personal, practical aspect of research, as witness the furore surrounding Jim Watson's recollections in the

Double Helix. They might not want their public to pay too much attention to rep-
orts from the British Association about Madonna's sex-appeal or dinosaurs' cloaca,
the most significant achievement of physical science this century, Quantum
theory, remains almost completely opaque to the public mind. Books have hinged
on the point that the theory seems to indicate that the reality of the states
of affairs in the material world is dependent on these states being observed & their
parameters measured with observation instruments. Gary Zukav's Dancing
Wu Li Masters (both Quantum theory electrodynamics with Taoism) & Heisenberg
the Spirit of Modern Physics. Einstein's prolonged scepticism of the adequacy of
Quantum theory. The Danish master Niels Bohr set upon interpretation of Quantum
mechanics which totally accepted, rather than repelled, this dependence of states of reality
on their measurement. The sciences are made up of varying & often contradictory
communities of practitioners whose basic tenets are rarely to be challenged
& indeed always remain unstated & unexplored. This kind of presupposit-
ion & belief helps give a scientific community its tenacity & success. The
basis of physics is not often discussed

Browning's readership for 30 years was tiny &, in the whole, uncomprehending, with
the inevitably recited exception of Elizabeth Barrett. This neglect vexed
him so much he invented a word for it, "Mis-apprehensiveness" (Essay on Shelley, 1852).
term which packs together "mis-apprehension" & "apprehensiveness": duplicity
& fear. The OED's readers overlooked this cipher, & still date the word's
invention 17 years later. "No 'E pur si muove' of the astronomer Galileo or

A History of Private Life. Vol I, ed. Paul Veyne; Vol. II., ed. Georges Duby; Vol. III, ed Roger Chartier; Vol. IV, ed. Michelle Perrot; Vol. V. ed. Antoine Prost & Gérard Vincent. (in French)

a words my attend response or voice by a look over his rejects living work in their depth of conviction & touch is also as like despair." Again & again, the queries on imperfect of syntax, or Achievement diction &, especially, Tolkien's use. How much the reader for the achievement in Elizabeth Browning's Aurora Leigh is not as neat & tidy as the Fisher Directive series. In June 1940, he told Maisky, the Russian ambassador, who had asked him what his strategy was, that he was simply hoping to survive the next month. There was a Machiavellian disingenuousness about the answer. It has become fashionable to reproach Churchillian bulldoggery as his only contribution to outfacing Hitler in 1940.

The Jews of Serbia are tempted to become more Serbian than the Serbs (at they appear less). The hand-written notice on the entrance of the Library of the Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg bears the legend: "No canteen tea milk today." Academicians & students can be seen emerging triumphant from the dining room with their booty. A strong smell of pork one day permeates the reading room of the archive of the Institute of History. Scaly tails protrude from the shopping bags of secretaries, librarians & research fellows. One historian managed to omit the expected quotations from the Works of Wisdom of the Founders of Marxism-Leninism from all his published works, most personally inserted all reference into his wife's dissertation, "language to shield her from trouble. The rationing of spirits (one litre per resident per month) & unobtainability of other forms of alcohol for months mean that meals with Russian friends are usually alcoholic, while the visiting foreigner chooses to buy gifts from the hard currency store.

Just as there is no longer, since the Middle Ages, unitary Christian civilization and culture,

These are sweeping & many thoroughly atavistic talks
This is a mixture of sympathy & not sympathy.
A. J. P. Taylor: "Here is no rebel flag & the soldiers of history = only the
opinion of the historian"

just a splintered & largely secularized civilization which is more clearly identified by the Post Western than Christian, there is, of course, no monolithic Islam either
The followers of Derrida & de Man do, in fact, abolish texts, i.e. Works of Literature become unnecessary so that the students can study Literary Theory & Pseudo-scientific Literature
Alexander Döblin cites "the magnificent aphorism of 1861: 'Under a mild regime, the Poles rise up because they can; under a strict regime, because they have to'"

Jane Austen, Letters, Feb 8, 1807: "... like my dear Dr Johnson, ... I have dealt more in Notions than Facts!" Lives of the Poets: "Milton ... was degraded as a schoolmaster".
According to Johnson, What Boswell forget to this friend
Virginia on her father's "Words in a Library": "Let us begin by clearing up the old confusion between the man who loves reading & the man who loves books. It is not that there is no connection whatever between the two. A learned man is a sedentary, concentrated, solitary enthusiast, who reads through books to discover some particular grain of truth upon which he has set his heart... A reader, on the other hand, must check the desire for learning at the outset; if knowledge sticks to him well & good but to go out in pursuit of it, to read on a system, to become a specialist or an authority is very apt to kill what it suits him to consider the more humane passion for pure & disinterested reading".

The speakers' cautions fly in all directions. Many cheered above Les Faits. Subsequently this year, Alexandre Zinoviev made a forceful speech. The new regime, since the August coup is, if still, worse than the regime of Brezhnev. It is chaos, "a legalization of criminality,

a new type of dictatorship is emerging, worse than the Stalin-type. Gorbachev, Yeltsin & the others. He called traitors & worse. "These people are murderers—killing our culture". It is impossible to divide the Communist system & the Russian way of life. T. S. Eliot in a broadcast in 1946: "Machinery is necessary, & the more perfect the machine the better. But culture is something that must grow; you cannot build a bee, you can only plant, & care for it, & wait for the nature in its due time."

T.L.S., Dec. 6, 1991

"It is an odd fact that "over half the world's population is now more than two hours' walking distance from a phone." This is simply a passing statistic noted by Peter Young in his study of international growth of telephones (Reason to Reread). The rest of the world's population has reasonable access to 700 million telephones. With it one can make money, go join in a fancy-dress ball, ask for cricket scores, learn about imminent explosions, tap into data banks, etc. The phoneless ones will all be linked up in time. He has shaken down a bumper crop of print, along with some dead things, from the groves of technology, politics, warfare, literature & even art (e.g. Salvador Dali's painting "Debris of an Automobile Giving Birth to a Blind Horse Biting a Telephone")! It is always good to be reminded of the embarrassed dawn of telephony. The disembodied voice of someone, unknown & unexpected with Mount Sinai: How should one respond to it—with "Okay", "Hello" "Hell" or "Are you there?" Thomas Watson, who received that first call from A. G. Bell in 1876, notes the instrument's power "to paralyze the tongues

of men of stations sufficient enough by nature & profession". Harder to accept were the moral implications of the station; how were daughters kept in their beds indistinctly chatting to young men who might also be in their beds, or even in their baths. As early as 1891, there was a call-girl service in Melbourne. George Eliot lived into the telephone age & went along with G. H. Lewes for an hour-long demonstration of its capacity, leaving much impressed. Bernard Shaw once worked for the Edison Company. Britain was outstandingly slow to become telephone-conscious. In 1891, the 8th Duke of Marlborough complained to The Times that, while "the whole business" of Christiana & Stockholm was domesticated telephone, the British system was in such a wretched state that "9 times out of 10 one abandons the instrument in despair"! In 1895, a Liberal Postmaster-General told the Commons that wireless telegraphy was acceptable for everyone, the telephone was not & would never be. The dead hand of the Post Office would all too soon be stretched out to choke the infant "wireless". In Montreal in 1874, the Roman Catholic Church was prepared to link an ailing Sisters of the Mass. If that was ever demanded by sinners it be allowed to confess into a priest's ear over the telephone we should hear of it. Irish force attended the 1917 rising in Petrograd when the surging revolutionaries were overawed by the government's Switchboard girls, disconsolate, were urged to join the work-class "Brutes! Pigs!" they cried at the invaders & walked out. Almost en masse. Stalin blocked proposals to modernize the telephone system — "no greater instrument for counter-revolution & conspiracy can be imagined." Russia, they

Acknowledgments normally clutter the work of American academics.

angel of death made gold-plated telephone.

Howard Rheingold, Virtual Reality. Imagine the following scenario. You go to your home computer, key proper function buttons, select a desirable sexual partner who lives in Australia & happens for that moment to be looking for a sexual encounter with someone like you. You & your partner choose appropriate, tight-fitting garments & don a helmet with goggles that completely encase the eyes. The pair of you then make love receiving exactly the tactile, auditory & visual sensations that would occur in the genuine act — or rather, almost exactly, for apart from the encumbrance of the helmet, the stimuli from your partner will arrive some time after they were emitted because they have time to travel the computer takes time to process them. Hence while such would have the merit of being safe, it could never provide those much sought-after simultaneous orgasms. This technology is known as Virtual Reality or — since computer scientists abhor words — VR. One of the first virtual realities was the Link trainer, in which the trainee pilot sat in a genuine cockpit, operating the controls & feeling the plane move in the way it would in a genuine flight. Existing technique are a long way from producing convincing tactile stimuli, while moving it for the whole body, as in the imaginary instance of the virtual lovers, will regard the limits of today's present technology. VR. can almost at present simulate 2 of the 5 senses — smell & taste. Reality requires considerable imagination, television requires a little, VR. requires none. If VR.

Were widely available, people might withdraw into a real world, which cannot be invaded by...

Gore Vidal explains that in 1976 he could not accept the honour of election to the (American) National Institute of Arts & Letters because he was already a Member of the Diners Club. What more elegant way to tell the Wider Club how much he values their opinion, or, for that matter, the opinion of anyone who buys what they write. And what more subtle way to let us know that he, Vidal, was in fact elected to that exclusive group by his friend Made another famous writer (John Cheever) said? He is not a scholar-squirrel who stashes away literary nuts for winter; he has never written a review for money: "I write for the movies". At the same time, the gleefully scholar-squirrelly-literary broke at our own miserable game. He can drop more literary names per page than an English literature professor at a session of MLA & disembodied the academic critics of his novel Lincoln to serve them up for our delectation, much as in the ancient myth Atreus killed & cooked Thyestes' children & then invited Thyestes over to dinner. Where else could we learn the real significance of the sled Rosebud in Orson Welles's Citizen Kane? Rosebud, the word that Kane whispers on his death-bed, was what William Randolph Hearst called his mistress Marion Davies's clitoris.

Young writers must choose whether to stay out in the jungle & be fair game to all, or seek the police protection afforded by joining one gang while accepting the increased possibility of being shot by the other.

J. Pickering, A. Isaacs & Elizabeth Martin. D. Byers' Dictionary of 20th-century Phrase & Fable
Nigel Rees, Bloomsbury Dictionary of Phrase & Allusion
125, Dec. 13, 1991

busy Lizzie
"anatomic Jew" nickname of an Italian film director

Wild animals are living in dark mines. Where they survive in the deepest Rockies, it is as inhabitants of acrimoniously dying Zoos or as domestic pets. Hagen Hein says goodbye to worlds formerly controlled, or so they will soon be ours alone. Extinct, therefore, not in those first in a chain extinction of interconnected species along with their habitats. Colin Tudge, Last Animals at the Zoo.

There is little point to animals without environments. Even left intact, what precariously remains cannot be relied on to sustain dangerously depleted species in enough numbers or with sufficient genetic variation to guarantee their survival. Animals will become not so much extinct as abstract.

Nancy Mitford's joke. Had all the sights in Rome been called after London cinemas.

Peter Costello, The Real World of Sherlock Holmes. Doyle had become increasingly bored with his greatest creation—he attempted to kill him off ten years earlier (1894) but had been frustrated by public demand. In 1903, Holmes "retired" and was banished to the South Downs to keep bees. The chance came to Doyle to turn his theories about criminal detection into practice. He embarked on a series of investigations to clear up mysterious cases of murder, wrongful imprisonment & theft. His interest in detective work might never have crystallized into a practical ambition had it not been for an incident which occurred while he was still an enthusiastic doctor. A patient he had taken into his house had died under circumstances, & the police were called in following allegations of foul play. Fortunately, the local medical officer had verified Doyle's diagnosis, & the charge was dropped. Nevertheless, the visit by the police made a deep psychological impression on Conan

Doyle — the theme of the innocent man falsely accused is one which recurs in his fiction. Doyle was not a detective fan of Sherlock Holmes, for he likes as much himself as depicted by his alter ego Holmes's deductive method. In the Croxborough Chicken Farm Murder, for example, the police quickly arrested the culprit, while Doyle had got "no further than that he was a left-handed man with nails in his boots".

Literary Review, April 1992

Bibliophobia, or fear of books, should be seen as an illness rather than as a crime or character defect. It is liable to visit book reviewers, librarians, publishers, & editors of literary magazines in a particularly virulent form. In milder form, it visits book-hoarders who discover that all available space in the house is filled with books which are of no further interest but which are protected from being thrown away by some quasi-religious dread. Sharper eyes than mine spotted an element of bibliophobia in the enthusiasm which greeted Tim Waterstone's Book Aid Appeal for Russia. At last we had found something useful to do with our unwanted books. When Graham Greene announced, nearly 30 years ago, that he should soon be a reader in the Soviet Union than in the United States of America, many decided that were simply backing the Americans. In Russia, at least, the authorities were frightened of writers. At a rough number of middle-class homes in the U.S. & probably a majority — would have no more than 2 or 3 books in them, only which would be a medical dictionary, another a guide to slimming & the third some incomprehensible work of psychotic

8 of Lenin: "Who whom?" (KTO KOVO. 水浒61回 唐俊杀人地点 "不是你死就是我").

Cosmology. The American cactus, if one can call it that, has long since passed beyond the solid state phase. Information is to be stored & conveyed electronically, subject to perpetual revision, while the imagination, or what passes for it, is stimulated & fed by short video segments.

Patrick Marnham, The Man Who Wasn't Maigret: A Portrait of Georges Simenon. Simenon's life is pungently studded with figures like clowns in an orange. The 400-plus books he wrote; the 55 cinema & 279 television made from them; the 500 million copies sold in 55 languages; the 1,000,000 francs he took one Sunday in cash, in a suitcase, to buy back from Fayard the subsidiary rights on his first Maigrets. He moved house 33 times; when separated from his eldest son he wrote him 133 letters in three weeks; when interviewing for a bilingual secretary he got through 180 candidates in a single afternoon. Then there is his famous estimate of having "accommodated" — to use Magic Johnson's verb — 10,000 women (though his second wife thought the figure exaggerated, & determined it to be 1200). Even even in laundry he was not modest: at his house retreat there were 6 washing machines in continuous operation. Among the published works of a prolific member of autobiographical texts: 27 in all. In Marnham's view Simenon was attempting to outwit any biographer with pre-emptive overkill. The human race Simenon told his mother in 1934 is divided into the Jeffeus & the Zozios. He did not discover that this division can exist within the same person, either serially or, as in Simenon's case, consecutively. His life falls into two clear

parts: the rise & rise of the Super-Spanker, followed by the slow decline of the Spanker. He escaped from Liège, through journalism & through marriage, to Paris, where he created the local roles. Pulp fiction brought him money, the Maigret series world fame, & the *Romans durs* serious critical acclaim & the sometimes embarrassing admiration of Gide, Cocteau, Thornton Wilder, & so on. Cars, houses, boats, parties, beige past friends & truckfuls of women: prostitutes, dancers (up to Josephine Baker), provincially well-born — though he did not like involvement — & always the housemaid. One new employee enjoined another girl, as she checked the job description, "On baise toutes à la casserole" ("in the pungent English: "Do we all get laid?"). A thrill, a riot, a debauch, but also a controlled one, marked by regular, driven work. Bernard Pivot said that for most writers sex is a distraction from work while for Simenon it was the other way round, work being a distraction from sex. This is not quite true: Simenon had enviably more than enough time for both activities. Simenon's life by the late 1930s was a display-case of literary, financial & sexual success. He spanked his publishers, even to a 50-50 split on the Fayard profits; domestically he ran his home & his wife on his own uniquely favourable terms. They agreed to continue in marriage & motherhood in spite of her discovery of his numerous infidelities. Simenon's settled, conveyor-belt sex was disturbed by the ferocious intricacies of love. Yet at first, when he exchanged Tigy for Denise, a 25-yr. old French-Canadian met in New York in 1945, it must have seemed to him that he was back in

Re Poe biography Skate over Poe's gambling & alcoholism
James Harrison, Essayism: Conrad, Hurst, & Philanthropic (The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press)

For whereas Tizy reluctantly permitted a *ménage à trois*, Denise gleefully encouraged a *ménage à quatre*; whereas his brothel visits had to be hidden from Tizy, Denise now came as a companion & cheerleader, even packing the novelist back upstairs for a second bout if she hadn't finished her conversation downstairs. Two of her powerful attractions for him were that she smoked Dutch American pot & had a "vaginal voice". But by loving Denise, & by finding the only woman in his life with whom "love & sex were merged", Simenon gave her power; he became a spankee. She more than his match at drinking, hitting, swearing & lying. He got what he wanted; also, if you are feeling moralistic, what he deserved. The elite disapproved & slowly arrived. Professional ones like the feminist "the crétins" in Stockholm to give him the Nobel Prize. Denise, after years of mocking insecurity during sex ("Fais vite!"), she would instruct, not as turn-on, finally announced that "I no longer enjoy making love to him". Their marriage collapsed, & they separated. By 1964 the battle continued. He slapped her with his memoirs, she slapped him back with her own; he would never permit a divorce, & for a quarter of a century, as she put it, "he hated me as passionately as he loved me". His daughter Marie-Jo, caught in the cross-fire, slashed a vein & then shot herself through the heart with a rifle. Then his mother Henriette makes her disapproving voice. She declines to be impressed right up to the end & hands back all the money he has ever sent her. Her glittering life. In 1970 she is dying back in Belgium. Within a year of her death he had abandoned fiction altogether & thereafter wrote nothing but [illegible] memoirs.

n.d. Younger Sister:
Alasdair MacIntyre, Forgotten Fatherland: the Search for Elisabeth Nietzsche - Her

suppressions & distortions served her, as well as they did the Nazis: he received
3 nominations for the Nobel Prize for literature, the acquaintance of Hitler & Mussolini, a Nazi State funeral. She & her frantically anti-Semitic husband Bernhard
Förster had attempted to colonize an isolated & virtually uncharted part of
Paraguay. In 1886, 14 "racially pure" families were persuaded by their propaganda to brave inhospitable swamps, jungle & fever to found New Germany — a racist
Utopia. Dr Förster was plotting a new Aryan empire intended to spread throughout
South America. The Fatherland's newest to Förster had been to sack him from his
Berlin teaching job for racial agitation. Nietzsche's political position was equally
clear: "No pity for Nietzsche's brother-in-law. ... all too much air in our Paraguay
... There can be question of reconciliation with a vengeful anti-Semitic goose"
While Nietzsche's disgust at the circle of sycophants surrounding Wagner in the
Jew-free Bavarian town of Bayreuth her increased, Elisabeth had been busy
becoming one of them. Förster spent the last months of his life drunk in
San Bernardino — another German colony close to the capital Asuncion — before
ending it with a cocktail of strychnine & morphine. Four months earlier, in
January 1889, Nietzsche had finally gone definitely mad. Elisabeth's response
to her double loss was to reinvent her relationship with her brother & to
reinvent his philosophy in her dead husband's image. Her efforts ensured that
cheap editions of his works were read by thousands & were misunderstood by
millions. The Will to Power, a posthumous "work" & "masterwork", was all her
work. & In the Great War Thus Spoke Zarathustra was distributed to those

Sex-tourism industry.

model on the German post. Without her fabrications & lies Nietzsche might have remained obscure. The Nietzsche Archive was stuffed entirely by Nazis, & was to be sealed on the orders of the Red Army. Mengele finds 5 Kinder of German descent & a fair lot of blond, blue-eyed anomalies among the Paraguayan Indians. The Aryan maiden tried to make him "a captive participant for the genetic pool."

Susan Faludi, Backlash. American women have by no means "arrived". They face the worst gender-based pay gap in the developed world, making 65 cents to the average man's dollar. Far from "working extensive suites, the vast majority remain stuck in the typing pool.

Bette Davis was a first-class bitch from beginning to end. She had not one single redeeming feature - Selfish, manipulative, despotic, she tongue-lashed her way through her 4 husbands & slept with countless others. Traditional episodes in front of her children. She had the effrontery to be hurt when her daughter B.D. Hyman, tipped the veil with her book My Mother's Keeper.

Potato is, as Angela Carter points out is "a goddess vegetable" because it wasn't mentioned in the Bible". Its Spanish name is patata de tierra, "earth potatoe"

McMaster University in Ontario has acquired the entire papers of the recently dead Bertrand Russell. The edition of his Collected Writings has so far produced 7 projected 30 vols. The University sponsors a journal called Russell - His "short assistants' guide to philosophy in 50,000 Words of one syllable". His Home University Library Problems of Philosophy (1912). His prolonged courtship of Lys Pearsall Smith & his bride's shy primness about physical sex. Russell remained honourably chaste

"Virginas are vaginas, penises are penises & never the twain do meet."
Berkeley Nichols on Hemingway: "an ass, a phoney, like D. H. Lawrence. They were both too fond of the hair on their chests."

during the courtship. A firm agnostic like Russell had to accomodate his position to the Quaker contentment of the Pearsall Smiths. Russell adopted the Quaker "thee" & the grammatical oddities it entailed in correspondence with his fiancée. He was intoxicated by Lady Ottoline Morrell, the "meteor" in his life, & she upset all the "nearer stars." She seems before long to have found Bertie rather a nuisance, but especially when she was two-timing him with Harry Cust.

Germaine Greer on Hemingway's suicide: "When his cock wouldn't stand up, he blew his head off. He used himself a line of bullshit & he bought it."

Literary Review May 1992

Spare us, O Lord, from these psychoacademics! The startling new claim that Charlotte Bronte was not pregnant at the time of her death in 1853 was released like a rocket on the 137th anniversary of this melancholy event by Gerson Weiss, a gynaecologist from New Jersey Medical School. Weiss claims that her death was caused by a form of anorexia known as Addison's disease & that she was not pregnant at the time of her death. These rubbishy psychobiographies keep a number of dim academics occupied & happy. Literary magazines would be much less boring if they ignored the outpourings of the Eng Lit departments. With startlingly few exceptions, provincial academics wade badly. No doubt there are university presses prepared to print this rubbish, & university magazines prepared to review them. If not, does can always emigrate to America, proclaiming themselves part of some mysterious brain drain. A vacuum abhorred equally by nature, by man & by God.

He stoops to the slapstick slapstick when he eates the custard pie above the Vagina skin. Fills her days with a lot of pseudo activity/ the public's appetite for "more of the same" seems to be limited.

Robyn Rose Rosland. Living Laboratories: Women & Reproductive Technology
Brain-dead women are kept alive to incubate children ("a magnificent corpse"). Scientists seriously argue that women will be willing to gestate gorilla foetuses in the interests of research. Worldwide, many thousands of girl foetuses are aborted. Not many are pulled whole out of their mothers' bodies, not in their own or their mother's interests, but in order to "super-ovulate" to yield human tissues which can be put into the bodies of other diseased human beings.

As Andrea Dworkin has pointed out, the reality of prostitution is markedly different from male fantasies of the floosy whore "enjoying their work".

Margaret Thatcher is one programmed into That Great Charmer in a stunning image: at first sight she is genuinely old charm. Wisely when you look more closely that monster beneath begins to emerge.

Most tourists in Barcelona will have seen deed-eyed adolescents loitering in doorways, pimps & prostitutes pathetically importuning. The transvestites parade near the football stadium for a steady stream of slow-moving cars. But for a cache-sex & some accessories — a feather boa, a leather bikini, or mesh stockings — they are naked, some with magnificent breasts that possess the artificial perfection of hothouse fruit, achieved through hormones, surgery & much saving up to pay doctors.

Telling books increasingly involves selling authors, & the publicity photo has seen

S-and-f blockbusters.

upgraded from a kind of interesting bonus for the reader to a key promotion tool – to lure the punter into buying a book via a striking & attractive pin-sticker photo of the books.

Studs Terkel, Race: How Blacks & Whites Think & Feel about the American Obsession. "This is not a melting pot. It's more a layer cake." The "layers": the Irish, the Poles, the Jews, may have come penniless to America, but one thing white immigrants could do ... was to believe they were moving upward because the blacks were always there, down below."

Edmund Wilson had been in love with Edna St Vincent Millay in the '20s (a somewhat complicated Triangular relationship involving John Peale Bishop), & used her as the model for the main character in his novel I Thought of Daisy. Her promiscuity.

London Review of Books 12 March 1992

As Peter the Great, Tsar of all the Russias, lay dying in 1725, the future of the imperial dynasty hung on his choice of successor. Peter, the first to take the title of emperor, had issued a law granting to himself the power to appoint whoever he liked as successor, but had continued to ponder the question, having had his own eldest son condemned & executed as a rallying-point for opposition. The end was cinematic. As he expired, he scrawled "Leave all to ..." But his finger failed him & the name was illegible. The result was chaos: seven emperors followed in rapid succession – 4 women, a baby, a drunkard & a boy. The story has a certain symbolism for today. In 1984 Orwell's world is the globe divided into the great blocs of Oceania, Eurasia & East Asia. His strategic vision

Eurasia
was prescient, though it was inconceivable without the reunification of Germany & the collapse of Communism. We live in an era of unprecedented geopolitical change. Gorbachev was, in this, the prime mover. His determination that the Cold War should end was first the object of perverse Western suspicion as a plot, a trick, a feint by the ever-wily bear. Right-wing ideologues were horrified that as Reagan was so gullible as to come close to believing in G's new agenda. Once the Wall went down in 88/89 the dominoes began to fall hither & yon... the dissolution of the USSR into 15, civil war in Yugoslavia, the collapse of Scandinavian Neutralism, the Greenland revolt to join the EC. Not only has Communism all but disappeared but so, too, has anti-Communism. More exactly, both hang on in pockets... the Cold Warriors of the Right are now as sedimented as those of the Left. Throughout the Third World the ending of the Cold War is a diplomatic disaster. Now they are no longer pawns in a global struggle, nobody much cares if many of these states fall off the chessboard altogether. The Western Left has a mind-set rather than a theory. According to this view, most of the excesses of Communism were comprehensible essentially as defensive reaction to capitalism. & whatever wrong in the Third World was generally attributable to the heritage of Western Colonialism. Basic civil rights were a bit iffy under many of these regimes, but this was offset by the important "gains" [illegible] made for socialism. Romantic tiers Mondisme has been an intellectual dead-end for the Left. Many Western liberals felt an emotional identification with the Third World spectators of the

the Cold War. It led to an uncritical sympathy for the "charismatic" Third World leaders & their regimes. The fact that almost none of these would tolerate an Opposition. & they quite customarily had an appalling civil rights record, was largely glossed over, as was the fact that large numbers of citizens in the societies they ruled were consistently desperate to leave & were indeed trying to go to extreme lengths to escape to the nearest local den of capitalist decadence — whether that was Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Miami or the Gulf Monarchies. Anti-colonial guilt had a paradoxical effect: those felt such guilt most deeply felt compelled to ignore the real sufferings of the ex-colonial people at the hands of these successor regimes. Thirty & forty years on, it is all too evident that African Nationalism, Arab Socialism & Indo-Chinese Communism led all roads to nowhere. Black Zimbabweans who think life was better under Smith are already common. Reagan's arms build-up, dangerous, venal & irresponsible as it was, did actually win the Cold War. The already overstretched Soviet System could not keep going upwards economically; in effect, lured by peace, & this necessitated a general internal relaxation. The situation is incurably call into question the whole principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign states. It was surely fashionable whether it was right to stand by & let Bokassa or Amin or Papa Doc commit pointless atrocities & mass-murder against their own people. Are we not ashamed that we watched Saddam Hussein slaying the Kurds, & Pol Pot massacring Cambodians, & did not say a word?

If we see a country wantonly increasing CFC emissions to the point where it becomes certain that millions of our citizens will contract cancer, will we not be justified in using all means to stop it, including force if necessary?

The homeless Left all knows the game is up. The Communist "threat" induced the West to construct a new model of welfare capitalism based on full employment — the model whose utterly unforseen "thirty glorious years" produced the most rapid & widespread increase of prosperity the capitalist world had ever seen. As Western economies moved into new generations of technology that were increasingly capital-intensive & research-based, so the Communist world lost its capacity to keep pace. In Poland foreign debts ballooned out of control, inflation soared in. The debt was astronomical, the imported machines stopped for lack of spare parts & the population sat all night on winter streets to keep their places in food queues. Industrial unrest became political opposition. The East had grown dependent on the System it was intended to bury, & the sudden change in prices, interest rates & demand for imports dealt the "planned economy" a death blow. The "Third Way" failed to materialize. The people prepared to buy capitalism, which they knew worked for uncorrupted socialists, this has been a more painful defeat than the long overdue collapse of the Soviet system. History is not over, but rather a set of bunkers. Some conceal treasures & revelations. Others are used as refuges & dark inns. When life above ground gets too discouraging.

For the inhabitants of Slatinske Doly, a small village on what was then the border between Czechoslovakia & Romania, smuggling has an honoured & necessary trade.

This is where Ludwik Hoch, or Robert Maxwell as he was later to rename himself, was born & brought up. These moonlit riverbank scenes were Maxwell's equivalent of Harvard Business School MBA. No wonder he turned out to be a crook – for him, dishonesty was part of business. Tom Bower, Maxwell: the Outside Story originally published more than two years ago, when it was not in usual Maxwell fashion by a welter of writs & court-imposed gagging orders. When Maxwell was alive, it was indeed a daring unauthorised biography, which, for those of us who read it, kept us on the straight & narrow. When Mr Maxwell fell off his yacht – or jumped or was pushed, depending on what you believe. Unfortunately, most of the new things Mr Bower has to say pale into insignificance when set alongside the enormity of the financial scandal which has subsequently emerged. Over the years, Maxwell told countless different versions of how he came to Britain, each more exaggerated & embellishable than the last. The final version was that he "led the Czech volunteers out of what Czechoslovakia across Hungary into Yugoslavia on their way to join the Polish army in France". On the way he was tortured & sentenced to death as a spy. In 1987, he was probably at the height of his fame & power. Though he was clearly going to fail in his ambition of letting Rupert Murdoch, his old sparring partner, in establishing a global-media empire, he had done pretty well for a young Jewish boy from the ghetto. Even when delusion began to stalk, from 1987 onwards, he somehow managed to maintain the pretence. His castle proved to be made of sand – only in his case it was even worse. The sand was stolen. At the Independent on Sunday, we stood out like a sore thumb

Godfrey Hodgson wrote a leader in the late LeXtie discussing Maxwell-
"a liar, a thief & a bully." It is not really a question of people like Max-
well corrupting the system: it is the corruption of the system that allows people
like Maxwell to flourish.

V. G. Kiernan, Tobacco: A History. How did we get from that to this? From
smoking after dinner to smoking between courses — the inter-course ciga-
rette — to smoke between bites? From drinking to acquire a manly hang-
over to drinking to dissolve an inhuman one? From having a cigarette after
the act to reaching blindly for one during it? The profession puffed its way
stoically through the anti-tobacco polemics of King James I, whose pamphlet on
the matter warned loyal subjects that it was "a custom loathsome to the eye,
hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs." A very
blistering story even though it has Lord Dacre for its authority. After the
suicide of the anti-smoking fanatic Adolf Hitler, all the former deputies be-
gan to light up." Now the headmaster had gone & the boys could flout the
rules. Under the Soviet influence of nicotine," they could learn the facts in the pa-
pers. Engels wrote that one the worst privations of the Northern prisoners was
that "tobacco is forbidden." And Marx reflected gloomily, as many a prisoner
since has done, whose stipend won't run to the humble cigarette, that
"Capital will not even pay for the cigars I smoked writing it." It would
interesting to study the degeneration of the Cuban revolution as the function of
a semi-colonial system that produced only three — sugar, rum & cigars — that

are supposed to be bad for you. Pierre Salinger — or Pierre Schlesinger as I always want to call him — once told me he was telephoned by President Kennedy & asked to calculate how many Cuban cigars there were in all Washington. He replied that he didn't know, but he could discover how many cigar stores were there. "Well, go to all of them, & buy every Havana they've got." The mystified wondering completed his task, & only learned its meaning later that night, when Kennedy announced an embargo on Cuban cigars for everybody else. Smoke is, in men, a tremendous enhancement of bearing & address &, in women, a consistant set-off to beauty. Who has not observed the sheer loveliness with which the adored one exhales? At a Mass meeting of young women at Tehran University, every pouting lip framed a cigarette in protest at a Khomeni *fatwah* against smoking for females. Now that most newsrooms ban the blue haze (& in the case of the anal-sadist Murdoch, the agreeable fumes of booze as well), the atmosphere of most newspapers, however it looks from some bedding last resort, tends to the written-out come, it nothing well shows.

There is a curious sense of *déjà vu* in the files of the Elizabethan intelligence service. Under the directorship of Sir Francis Walsingham, the security service featured much the same cast of moles, buggers, double-agents & dirty tricksters that has entertained us in more recent spy scandals. The technology has improved — in Walsingham's day, the fastest intelligence could travel was the speed of a horse, but the methods & motives of the secret

would have not really changed. If John Bossy is right in Giordano Bruno & the Embassy Affair, he has stolen an extraordinary spectre coco, which had escaped [illegible] at the time. Jordanus Brunus Nolanus — "that Italian de-defter with a name longer than his body", as one Englishman described him — was a small, dark, intense man from Nola in the Kingdom of Naples. He had abandoned his calling as a Dominican friar, & had recently been living in Paris. In England he embarked on an intense course of self-publicity. He disputed at Oxford, held philosophical soirées with Sir Philip Sidney & Fulke Greville, & published a series of arcane Italian "dialogues" with titles like The Expulsion of the Triumphant Beast & The Heroical Furies. What exactly he was evangelising is hard to define. Throughout his stay in England he was lodged at the French Embassy. The first of his dialogues, La Cena de le Ceneri ("The Ash Wednesday Supper") was dedicated to his host & protector, Michel de Castelnau, Sieur de la Mauvissière. He stayed for two years in England, & returned to France with Castelnau in the autumn of 1585. Henry Faget, a spy for Sir Francis Walsingham, was one habitué of the French Embassy, in which he served for a while as priest & confessor. His letters & reports, written in French, remain among the State Papers in the Public Record Office. They contain the usual dish-dash & tittle-tattle of the Elizabethan informer. In one case, his intelligence led Walsingham to something important; he alluded to a certain "Sieur Frocquemorton" as a chief agent (Gifford) for the imprisoned Mary Queen of Scots & his "secret" & "private conferences"

✕ Adrian Desmond & Jame Moor, Darwin

with Ambassador Castelnau. Acting on Fagot's tip-off, Walsingham arrested the Catholic conspirator Francis Throckmorton. Bojty argues that the philosopher Bruno & the priest-spy Fagot were one & the same, & that while Bruno was performing his highly public antics as a controversialist he was also moonlighting as Walsingham's informer. Fagot's first bulletins coincide with Bruno's arrival at the Embassy, & his last with Bruno's departure to France. Fagot commits small errors of diction which no Frenchman would make. But the letters written by Fagot are not in a script used in any of the acknowledged specimens of Bruno's autograph.

Darwin* withdrew to the old parsonage at Down at the age of 33, confidently telling an old servant as he sent the address: "This will be the direction for the rest of my life." We had to think of successors & that trinity of lone rangers — Darwin, Marx & Freud — in an age when research is financed by foundations & carried on by teams. Still, Darwin would have used the big grant, the dedicated team & the computerised data-base had they been available. The independence conferred when he was only 27 by £400 a year from his father (a sum later vastly increased by inheritance & careful investment) was in one sense illusory. He laid under contribution for his findings a network of contacts which spread across the world. The £1000 of public money which his Cambridge mentor Henslow's contacts with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Spring Rice, obtained for the publication cost of his Zoology of

a pick-'n'-mix survey of comparative religion
Writers are peddlers of dreams.

the only patronage he ever received. He was dependent on private means. Every tentacle of British imperialism & British commerce was induced to wrap itself round the required data. Of the Empire's heart, official & unconcealed extraordinary favours. The British Museum sent its bones for Darwin to work on at home (by citing this precedent on your next visit), & Captain Beaufort placed the Service of Her Majesty's surveying ships to check his facts in any quarter of the globe. Darwin was a stubbornly reclusive & unflamboyant figure. The Beagle voyage over, he never stirred from Britain & not very often from Downe, where he "purposed dealing with the world by post." He emerges as a man condemned for 40 years of self-imposed asceticism by a searing conflict between his passionate anxiety to retain the esteem of the entrenched Anglican & gentry establishment into which Cambridge above all had introduced him, & his need to pursue truth, which could be employed by the enemies of the established order to dissolve the moral assumptions on which its authority rested. His theory of evolution effectively turned God into the "absentee landlord" of the universe. Afraid of persecution & loss of reputation & of the exploitation of his views by atheists & firebrands, he shrank from publishing his heresies for 20 yrs. The appearance of Origin of Species is a cunning-out drama, precipitated by the need to pre-empt Alfred Russell Wallace. Though the death of his daughter Annie in 1851 had left him an agnostic, he never ceased to compromise, at least in public, on the implications of his theory for God & man.

Auberon Waugh, Will This Do? He had long got used to living in the shadow of his famously unpleasant dad. Indeed he was a most loyally imitative son. He wrote satirical novels & became a "grindy snob." He secured a commission in his father's regiment & then peppered himself with bullets from his own Sten gun. He married well & learned to bore sneeringly about the working classes. He served time as a down-market dandy. Fleet Street, & as an indignant country squire. He went to Africa, he lost hair, & so on & so on. The older Bron got, the harsher his character assessment made by his father. Even his near-death in the Borneo jungle aroused no more than a flicker of paternal interest. "I think I must have been a difficult child to love," says the obliging Bron.

C. K. Stead claims that for the Australian or New Zealander to make it in England, more than reverse migration is required. Clive James is the master of many decks that must be envied by more varieties of hack than anyone in England. Envy is sharpened by James's being so ostentatiously an outsider—still so aggressively Australian as the day he landed on our shores thirty years ago. Posting his biceps & washing under his armpits in a vain attempt to lure Germaine Greer into bed. Grim! Grim! is an ingenious progress like "Peregrine Pryke's Pilgrimage through the London Literary World," "The Fate of Felicity Fark in the Land of Media," "Britannia Bright's Bewilderment in the Wilderness of Westminster," et al. If Voltaire still has his patent on the *Candide* plot James would be a poor man. The difference

Angela Carter: "She [Jin ha] come a little early this decade".
She is an honorary graduand of the Cavendish's academy, used by them as a token-
figure as a sort of mascot. I reserve the title "cavendish" for the anthologists &
other promoters. The enterprise has always hung by a shoe-string.

is that the hero in Boom! Boom! is a Japanese. In London, by a series of
comic misadventures, Akira Tanaka (Alec) is blessed with a penis based a-
Mitsubishi steel & ends up in bed with a string of luscious Englishwomen
& earns himself a ton of money through shady city deals. Buy Australia, i.e.
Journal & business men of Australia must perceive that the continent is
being filched from the white Australians as they, 200 yrs ago, filched it from
the Aborigine, & the Aborigines presumably filched it from the lizards. The
malls of Queensland's Gold Coast have signs in Japanese first, with English
subtitles

London Review of Books, 9 April 1992

George Steiner, Proofs & Three Parables. "If America is a country where
people never grow up, then in Romania babies are born old." In
Chris Baldick's Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms, there is a
sinister undertone in: "Liberal humanism (& sometime all humanism) be-
come under challenge from post-structuralism, which replaces the unitary
concept of "Man" with that of the 'subject', which is gendered 'de-centred', &
no longer self-determining."

The idea of the modern epoch as the end of civilization persisted until the 80s
in the work of Joyce's former amanuensis, Samuel Becket. It is implicit indeed
in the title of his play, End game. The work — today unfashionable — which seemed
to authenticate this vision was Spengler's Decline of the West. In Berlin Auden
met the anthropologist Jaime Layard, who showed him the Magnus Hirschfeld Institute

For Leonard Woolf, in his autobiography *Downhill All the Way*, Isherwood wrote: "To Christopher, Kajkin means Boys." Fascism & Communism were mirror-images of each other.

London Review of Books, 23 April 1992

If Galtieri's junta had prepared for War in 1982, even to the minimal extent of equipping Argentinian fighter-bombers properly, Argentina would still today be ruled by a triumphalist military élite, inept mismanagers of the economy, impotent spectators of the country's social disintegration, & of course both cruel & corrupt. By the standards of Desert Storm, the scale of the Falklands war was minuscule, the technical level of the encounter primitive & the physical objective of the war: control of the Falklands, exceptionally insignificant. Accordingly, victory could only yield a momentary flush, the functional equivalent of a national snort-in. It is unthinkable that an entire British armoured division would have been sent on its Iraq-bashing errand to Saudi-Arabia in 1990 along with RAF's badly under-equipped Tornados & the warships that added to the idle overcrowding in the Gulf, if the Iraq-bashing expedition of 1982 had not been such a stirring adventure, crowned with success. The fagade-over-substance, heedy-over ability, titles-over-jobs preference from the "Blocked Society" of Britain. All sorts of statistics no doubt prove the abundance of social mobility in post-war Britain. But deference to aristocratic value cannot be demonstrated statistically. E pur non si muove, one can only protest. One can still feel the generational guilt that a slice of society whose hands are

is Field & Stream, & whose apex is Forgie's ex-mom-in-law.

Christopher Norris, Uncritical Theory: Post-Modernism, Intellectuals & the Gulf War. Norris, the leading British Deconstructionist, knows his Derrida, & has worked, so to speak, at the coal-face of the subject. The book looks just like a case-of mid-life reaction-to-the reactionary. After all the world has seen such things before; remember Robert Frost's "I never dared be radical when young / For fear it would make me conservative when old." Norris is still a passionately engaged radical critic of the Anglo-American Establishment. He argues in this book, as he has argued before, that Richard Rorty, formalist reading of Derrida as a dissolver of truth & objectivity is wrong. Derrida has made it clear (especially in the 1989 "Afterword" to Limited Inc., but also in Grammatology) that he repudiates the charge that he scorns truth & belongs to the "anything goes" school. Norris draws a sharp distinction between critical Deconstruction & Post-Modernist theory. The former is intently cognitive, the latter ~~relativist~~ relativist or even nihilist in tendency. The villains in this book are Jean Baudrillard, Richard Rorty, Stanley Fish, Jean-François Lyotard & Michel Foucault, closely followed, as well-liked & seen, by Presidents Reagan & Bush, Margaret Thatcher & John Major. The heroes are—well, Derrida, of course, but above all Noam Chomsky, here exalted especially because of his steadily rationalist opposition to Foucault, in an exchange on Dutch Television in the early '70s about the location of political power. It is true that Derrida in a recent question-&-answer session in Oxford

mainstream but deconstruction was essentially a dissolution, not analysis. This fits well with Norris's own contention in a recent lecture that Derrida is really an unusually meticulous exegete of other people's philosophies, attracting admiration for simplifying summaries attentive to footnotes. But the problem is not settled by the fact that particular passages of Derridean analysis presuppose realism (e.g. by showing that we cannot meaningfully correct our misreadings of Rousseau if Rousseau's writings do not exist, as possible objects of analysis). Even Baudrillard, whom Norris consigns confidently to the "empty zero" school, similarly presupposes realism when he writes that "the Gulf War has not happened". For "the Gulf War never happened" to figure as an interesting statement there must be in the world other cases of real happening — and this is a realist assumption. In practice, however, there is no prior logical objection (as with novels or poems) to the use of the indicative tense to connote the non-real. Norris says (as he once would) with a bow, say, Derrida's wonderfully facile reply to John Searle in Glyph (1977). Norris further concedes that Derrida's essay on nuclear war, in Diacritics (1984) is not a million miles away from Baudrillard's in spirit, since it appears to suggest that nuclear is a vanishing concept. It is clear that Norris has made an important pitch to shift critical interpretation away from Coherence Theory of Truth (à la Bradley) towards Correspondence Theory, though he does not use these terms. Even Lyotard, with his apparently Hegelian mission on behalf, not of consensus, but of a maximum simultaneous multiplicity of "dissensus", is really caught in the same net, for "dissensus" is a tacitly reconciliatory term, promoting dysphasia, postponing ethical judgment. "All real-

is misread", it has been loudly proclaimed. But the phrase dismantles itself. We distinguish a learned person's misunderstanding of a text from examples of the objective interpretation. But if all interpretations are wrong, we can never have true account, & it follows that we have no way of telling the character of the object to influence our discourse. But an interpretation having no reference to an object-to-be-interpreted is a nonsense. The strange suicide of the proposition can be repeated, for radical Textualists, with reference to the word "fiction," which itself loses all force if there is no implicitly contrasting fact. To "all truth is merely relative" theorist," it is a tone-cusher to cheerfully say: "You must concede that your own sentence, just uttered, is merely relative!" At a recent conference of professors of English, no packs or novelists name was mentioned in 4 days of frigid theorizing.

For American network television news, 1991 was a year was de-publicity—not just to publicize or represent war, but the waging of war by means of publicity & representation. The Desert Storm image is abstract, like a display in a video game. It represents a mass of cold-blooded electronic massacre, one in which bodies (except for the endangered Western media personalities) rarely appear. Said no-face can be (& has been) represented in immediate & palpable ways on both film & television. Oliver Stone's Platoon, for instance, is notorious for the way it conveys the physical reality of combat. Vietnam War, above all, represented on the body. Many films can recall the television coverage of body counts,

the innumerable flag-draped caskets, the massacres & atrocities & mass burials seen on television, as well as singular images like the naked Vietnamese girl, her flesh aflame with napalm, & the dismembered American soldiers returning home. A major objective in the presentation of the Gulf War to the American public was the erasure of the human body from the picture. General Schwarzkopf announced at the very outset that there would be no body counts or body bags in this war. Instead, we had the euphemism of "human remains pouches" & the state refused to enumerate casualties, especially Iraqi casualties, which to this day (very) have received no official estimate from the Pentagon. When CNN's Peter Arnett broke the rule against showing bodies, & transmitted images of Iraqi civilians killed by one of our smart bombs, Senator Simpson of Wyoming promptly labelled Arnett an Iraqi "sympathizer." Media coverage of military funerals or the unloading of flag-draped caskets was strictly censored. This was a war without bodies or tears but filled, at the same time, with a sense of danger, with paranoia, & with spectacular violence. A public relations war & its whips & carrots & sticks hitched against the enemy's to play the "Saddam as Hitler" card. It allowed the vast majority of the American public to celebrate without pause the spectacle-mass destruction of unwilling Iraqi conscripts in Kuwait & of innocent civilians in Iraq. It allowed that public to see the restoration of undemocratic oligarchy in Kuwait as a moral victory. The media collaborated perfectly & collaborates in the selling of a Presidential war to a sceptical public. It suppresses every

signs posted. The air war consultant Major-General Perry Smith wrote that CNN achieved total air supremacy over the networks. It provided the saturation bombing of the American public and ignored the views of anti-war representatives. This may well be the first time a major American television news network has so openly collaborated with the propaganda machine of the US military. Operation Desert Storm showed us how strategic use of the media could control a divided, sceptical, even resistant public into compliant spectators of a high-tech massacre.

(Originally published in German in 1983)

Paul Ratchnevsky, Genghis Khan: His Life & Legacy, tr. by Thomas Haining. The teen-age murder of a half-brother, the abandonment of his young wife to his enemies to save his skin, the execution of his closest friend, a blood-brother since childhood by dismemberment & the poisoning of his eldest son. This all sounds much more like Renaissance Italy than the everyday life of ordinary steppe-dwelling folk. Ratchnevsky was instructed in all the relevant languages by Paul Pelliot. Genghis shared with the most successful steppe leaders before him a relative lack of interest in family ties. He passed his prime not in Mongolia at all, but in service to the rulers of North China. His successors certainly behaved like leaders of a master race. But Qaidu in whose name they attempted to conquer the world (came closer than most to succeeding) seems, on the basis of his own experience to have had a far less sanguine view of their chances. Taxed at the height of his success with having killed so many of his opponents that there might be no survivors left to pass on his fame to future generations, he replied that the world was full

Z Kings. We notice that the Medieval Chinese & Mongols represented two in-
electably opposed ways of life only kept from a savage war to the knife by the
interposition of the Great Wall already become a ghost of its former self. Had
Genghis not died in 1227, his sons & daughters would have presented further claims
upon the remaining Jurchen, & it was left to his successors & their children
to complete the task & lead the Mongol armies onwards, from Poland to Pales-
tine, from Japan to Java. The Manchus descendants of the Jurchen learned
the Wall's lesson — that it was impossible to oppose China & Inner Asia at the
same time. Their Mongol allies continued to serve them so well throughout
the history of their dynasty that during the Opium Wars one doughty Mongol
general was even alleged by the British to be a renegade Englishman.
The Manchus & Mongol forces recreated the empire of Genghis in Inner Asia,
including Tibet, which had never been conquered by a Chinese emperor, but for-
merly had been temporarily subject to the Mongol Khans, who were in return
spiritually subordinate to the direction of its lamas. The number of scholars
who read Manchu, Mongol & Chinese is strictly limited (to zero, in fact, among
British academics). Today market forces rule education absolutely, at least
in higher education. Those who would like to see popular, "unproductive"
topics have been obliged to grind & grind about, teaching Japanese for
"business purposes or whatever".

Julian Martin, Francis Bacon, the State, & the Reform of Natural Philosophy
The model of Bacon's proposals for the advancement of true knowledge in natural

Madonna: "Crucifixes are sexy; there is a naked man on them." If Madonna went to a post-mortem would she find the corpse sexy too?"
Cicero
His disgust threshold will have to rise

Philosophy is the study of fact-finding & rule making characteristic of English law! This accounts for Bacon's peculiar lack of connection with anything that was going on in what we call science in his lifetime, e.g. his ignorance of or contempt for the Copernican system of the universe.

London Review of Books, 14 May 1992

The last 27 years of Evelyn Waugh's life make melancholy reading. He struggled with madness & depression & boredom. He could be said to have died of boredom, but, like the Wife in Belloc's poem, "not before/ Becoming an appalling bore himself." His war had begun, like Guy Crouchback's in the "Sword of Honour" trilogy, as a crusade against the forces of atheism & modernism. When his superior officer, Lord Lovat, who had been in a trunk in the back of Waugh's every day of the previous week, received a letter of advice from Waugh about how he should be running the unit, there was a colossal falling out between the two men from which Waugh's military career never recovered. As a Catholic aristocrat, Lovat was all the things Waugh most approved. Here again, if Waugh was the crusty stock of popular legend, you would have expected him to stick up for the Lovats. His reaction as a writer when his wife had babies was to go away & put up in a hotel where he could write in peace. Like all manic clowns, Waugh went too far. "What does Bert know of Dukes?" was the reaction of Disraeli's father when his son's early novels. Arthur Waugh took a similarly skeptical view of his son's upper-class fantasies. Like Disraeli, Waugh spent money with an attractive abandon: houses, elaborate

Robert Hugh Trevor-Roper cruelly reviewed Waugh's biography Compton, he
used this was "Three Martyrs"

Victorian furniture, gold watches, cigars, expensive books, all ensured that however much money he earned, he was always living from one financial crisis to the next. He also extraordinarily generously lavish money on poverty-stricken friends & trigy ecclesiastics. It was said that Betjeman's was "claimed" then, before & after, Penelope's "marriage", though "made advances" to her. Now that all parties are dead, it would have done no harm to say that these advances were not always rebuffed, though told a friend privately that he had been humiliated by Penelope Betjeman's habit of laughing when he reached his sexual climax. Henceforward, his advances took a spiritual turn. Betjeman's distaste for Roman Catholicism deepened & hatred after this, but rather to both men's credit, they remained friends. No one should not that Waugh's ex sexual interest in Penelope Betjeman was the sole explanation of his proselytising zeal. His professions to give many of his royalties to the Jesuits, to pray the poor Clare nuns to pray for fine weather, & to write absurdly laudatory notices of any book, however feeble, by a co-religionist, were all motivated by profound personal faith. His sanctifying age never blinded him to the ghastliness of the Catholic Church in England. Apart from Ronald Knox & Martin D'Arcy he tended to abhore the clergy, & he furiously abominated the changes introduced by the Fathers of the Second Council

The Navy is not, nor ever has been done for a short period towards the end of the 19th Century, an aristocratic service. Unlike the Army, it did not sell commissions. During the Napoleonic wars, when the Navy came to its own as

a possible road to wealth & distinction, it is clear that the advancement of young obscure origin caused resentment in some quarters, as witness Sir Walter Elliot's vexation, in Jane Austen's Persuasion, at the enoblement of "dear Sir Ives, whose father we all know to have been a country curate". Queen Victoria, in the earlier years of her reign, was embarrassed by the impropriety of ministers' Naval Princes to eat at dinner with her Guards officers, & the difficulty in finding those fit to do so.

Alfred Appel, asked by Nabokov in the late sixties about students disrupting his lectures: "I told him that the only demonstrations we demonstrations of affection. A man who sat in the back row of one of course, one day complained after class that a couple near her were always spooning. 'Sir,' I said, 'in these troubled times she should be grateful if that's all they were doing.' Ohhh, moaned Nabokov, mourning my lost opportunity, clapping his hand to his head in mock anguish, 'You should have said.' Sir, be grateful that they were not fighting." Love is an exclusive emotion; loving mankind is a logical ~~contradiction~~ contradiction, produced by too much peace in the blood. Dirty is a different matter. In Lolita, Nabokov is interested both in child abuse and romantic love. We are given to understand, several times over, that Humbert's behaviour is wrong, that Dolores Haze is the more complex person that Humbert had previously realised. The protest of the New Yorker editor Katharine White at the second chapter of Prim x post is banal evil, is the protest of Nahum Tate & Dr Johnson against King Lear. It represent

He does it in all of us to close our eyes & close our fellow beings on maybe—
to see an evil as aberrant rather than intrinsic. Nabokov denounced
Dostoevsky, Doctor Zhivago, Thomas Mann, Faulkner, George Eliot, War
& Peace, Steinbeck & Cervantes, in a tirade I liked reading bad literature
aloud. He was McGraw Hill's flagship author.

John Lennard, Part 2 of 'But I digress': The Exploitation of Parentheses in English
Printed Verse. Brackets or Erasmus's happy term *lunulae*: "little
moons". A. E. Housman: "Revenge is a valuable passion, & the only one-
pillar on which justice rests." In the Cuckqueans & Cuckolds Errants
(c. 1601) William Percy used a double parenthesis in a speech by Pearl
to suggest a pearl within an oyster. In the novel Foe (1986) J. M. Coetzee
wrote of storytelling: "But as to determining which episodes had promise
(as oysters hold pearls), it is not without justification that Art is called divine."
Shaw called Maud Gonne "outrageously beautiful". She early decided that Yeats
was a great asset to Ireland, but only as a lover. He was too cautious, too
compromising, to serve her more violent purposes. Yeats repeatedly accused
her of her inexhaustible hatred. What animated her politically was a
deeping loathing for England & its empire: "famine in Ireland, Opium in China,
torture in India, pauperism in England, disturbance & disorder in Europe,
& robbery everywhere." She had an aversion to sex. Her youthful liaison
with the French anti-Dreyfusard and Anglophobe politician Lucien Millevoye
produced two children. Yeats knew nothing of this at the time he met her
& proposed marriage. Believing that she had a horror of sex, he was

devastated when she married John MacBride, the "drunken vainglorious lout" who became a martyr in 1916. Because they were in Paris, they had to be married at the British Consulate, under the British flag, & MacBride, recently this & fearing the usual treachery, kept his hand on his revolver throughout the ceremony. Their plan was to use a Spanish honeymoon as cover for an assassination attempt on Edward VII, who was visiting Gibraltar, but MacBride instead got drunk in Algeciras. It might be said that a woman requiring her marriage to be consummated by a royal assassination was an exceptionally demanding partner. She left abruptly for Paris. By a nice irony the MacBride, who sought her unscrupulously through the French courts, hired his lawyer M. Labori, who had defended Dreyfus. Like nearly all the women with whom Yeats was closely associated, Maud, almost as a matter of course, went in for occultism! She & Yeats often left their bodies to converse with each other on a visionary plane. While serving a sentence in Holloway she rented her Dublin house to Yeats, who had recently married. On her release she returned illegally to Dublin, but Yeats refused to let her into the house, fearing that a police raid would upset his pregnant wife. She accused him of cowardice, he accused her of "a pure & disinterested love of mischief" The Anglo-Irish poet lacked the courage & was, to Maud, a trimmer. Her daughter Iseult, already seduced by Ezra Pound & proposed to by Yeats, married Stuart, a wonder who was more like Genet than Yeats, who thought that homosexuality could only in a climate of dishonour. They rose him to criminals. Selfish & jealous, he made

hideous scenes, deprived his wife of food & money, & set fire to her clothes.
The toady's old positivist diet with which Chomsky launched the MIT tradition in linguistics. Semantics has always been the weakest aspect of Chomskyan linguistics. At first, extreme claims are made, but under challenge there is a retreat to watered-down versions to ordinary things that can not be objected to. This shift from one pole to the other allows both originality & notoriety to be displayed & the "the naïve are offered something extraordinary, & the doubters are appeased." Gary Saul Morson & Caryl Emerson, Mikhail Bakhtin: Creation of a Prosaics. Bakhtin was a theorist who mistrusted grand theory & the closed systems of thought which make it impossible to maintain that essential quality of the first-rate critic — an acute receptivity to a great variety of texts. He particularly rejected Marx & Freud as examples of closed theoretism, observing that these systems do not allow us to investigate human situations for they only permit us to discover what we already know. Here Bakhtin may seem to be making a point very similar to a common recent criticism of much Marxist or feminist criticism: that it is repetitious & sees the same thing in very different works.
What is usually taken as the first reference to "Modernism" as a movement in the arts is found in J.-K. Huysmans's review of the Salon of 1879, where he reports a conversation which took place some years earlier between a "foreign painter" & Fromentin, the historian of Dutch art. Modernism in theology had, however, already been denounced by another Dutchman, the Calvinist Abraham Kuyper,

The Conservative is regarded by many as a solitary voice to be disclosed (a then anonymously) to none but the return of Christ

Otto, in 1871, published a book entitled Het Modernisme: Een Fata Morgana op Christelijk Gebied ("Modernism: A Fata Morgana on Christian Ground"), & the term was, as a result, widely used in both Holland & Belgium. Kuyper's Encyclopedia of Sacred Theology was translated into English The possibility of a relationship between the two Modernisms had already been demonstrated by Ruskin in a lecture on Pre-Raphaelitism given in 1853. Using the term "Modernism" in a slightly different sense — to refer to the entire period since Raphael — Ruskin claimed that "modernism" was the condition of art divorced from the religious beliefs to which it had been wedded during the preceding period of "Medievalism". Artistic & religious sensibilities became uncoupled. Kuyper, the theological anti-modernist, went on to publish Modern Masters & Interpreters of Holy Writ in which he commended a range of contemporary artists; while Huysmans, the aesthetic Modernist, dabbled in Satanism before becoming a Catholic deeply hostile to theological modernism (notably La Cathédrale). Theological Modernism was characterized by rejection of the supernatural, an optimism of the intellect & an emphasis on the pragmatic value of religion in pursuit of other goals; in contrast, aesthetic modernism espoused the doctrine of art for art's sake, sought out the primitive & irrational as sources of inspiration.

London Review of Books, 28 May 1992

In the fall of 1981 Alfred Brendel gave a concert in Copenhagen. November is a damp month in Denmark, & that night coughing & sneezing in the audience. Suddenly

in the middle of a movement, Brendel stopped his performance, faced the audience with a cold stare & said with great composure: "Ladies & gentlemen composure: "Ladies & gentlemen, I can hear you, but I doubt if you can hear me."

Some of Sir Richard Burton's wilder anti-African remarks were inspired by Sierra Leone, where Blackmen sat on juries & worked British-style institutions. Doris Lessing says that Burton was not a "bigoted racist", as is often claimed by those who accused him. Can Hitler be exonerated from "bigotry" because he allied himself with the Japanese?

It may be necessary to do a bit of toadying about practical applications of pure research when asking for patronage. A man running an important nuclear physics & nuclear medicine facility in New Jersey told me that in recent years nearly all graduate students came from China. A friend who commutes weekly between Harvard & Fermilab complains that she has only enough postgraduate work under her at the high-energy laboratory: a wonderful able son from Korea. It's China & the Indian subcontinent that are providing so many of the research students.

The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell, Vol I (1884-1914). The Rapidly three early years letters is emotionally incompetent rather than duplicitous, self-lacerating, prim & proper than thou lecherous. A reader who knew nothing of Russell's reputation as an elderly satyr would spend more time writing about Russell than at him. At the height of his passion for Ottoline Morrell, he wrote her 3 or more times day. From 1900 to 1911 he & Whitehead were working Principia Mathematica, the

Bertrand Russell—Wordely minded though he was—epitomized a philosophical revolution
Klein Wittgenstein argued that Russell's views were wrong in important
respects, Russell found it hard to shrug off his objection. He was also des-
perately miserable celibate, locked into the loveless marriage with Alys. When
Ottoline Morrell got him to write The Problems of Philosophy for the Home Univ-
ersity Library, Russell referred to this the assignment condescendingly, clearly
It was a "shilling shocker" intended to enlighten shop assistants; he never
believed the conviction that real philosophy was not for general con-
sumption. Alys Pearsall Smith was 5 yrs older than Bertie. Ottoline
did something to liberate him sexually, though she did not find him particu-
larly attractive, & he knew it. But his religious sentimentality was exactly
what he did not need. Ottoline forced to hold his natural scepticism &
ebullience in check. Since she was usually hoping to manage 2 or 3 admir-
ers at once it is hard to feel indignant about Russell's casual emotional dup-
licities. Ottoline's husband, Philip Morrell, a decent, affectionate, small-"l"
liberal in all his dealings & infinitely tolerant of Ottoline's whims & passions
Later, of course, he was to shelter Lawrence, Huxley, Russell & a small army
of conscientious objectors at Garsington Manor. He remains a calming off-
stage presence, ignoring Russell's demands that Ottoline should leave her husband
for a life of passion, poverty & infamy.

Many officials of the Lon Nol administration installed by the Vietnamese &
by the former Khmer Rouge Commander & ex-Monk Hun Sen have abandoned the

Hawkless tasks of running the country & decided to make money instead. The erratic Prince Sihanouk, a Francophile gourmet & amateur film-maker, has political skill but does not have vision. He avoided the issue by lavishly entertaining the foreign visitors — Princess Margaret of Great Britain & a week later, the President of Nigeria — & by pouring himself into his films. Aid workers used to scorn the luxury Hotel Cambodiana, which pedlo deprecatingly like a cruise ship in the road, & the Café No Problem with its French cheeses, pâté & champagne & aspic that the troops of Phnom Penh will have to defend in the neglected countryside & promote the anti-urban policies of the Khmer Rouge, whose propaganda used to refer to the capital as "the great prostitute on the Mekong". Having won its independence in 1953, Sihanouk's country had to proceed. He had no programme, no foreign policy, no economic plan.

Six weeks after his death, Rodney King had been discovered in a parked car with a transvestite prostitute; he sped off, & nearly ran down a police officer.

Ben Macintyre, Forgotten Fatherland: The Search for Elizabeth Nietzsche

Macintyre journeyed his way into northern Paraguay to find "Nueva Germania" & look for the descendants of Saxons whom Elisabeth Nietzsche & her husband had brought there in the 1880s. He'd come looking for their Elisabeth Förster-Nietzsche & Bernhard Förster — whom the Times described as "the most representative Jew-hater in all Germany" — had intended to be "a new Deutschland, where synagogues shall be forbidden & Boches unknown". What he found was a settlement that had never learnt to manage

the soil or raise animals, she'd become visibly inbred, still reverently called Nueva Germania her idea. Nueva Germania was a fiasco, & eventually an open scandal. Förster began to despair, took to staying at a hotel in another German colony near Asunción, where he drank for weeks on end, & eventually poisoned himself. Elisabeth, determined as always to put the best face on things, denied suicide & declared that she had to return to Germany to raise more cash; she asked her mother to send a telegram to say that the ailing Nietzsche needed her at home. She had already styled herself Queen of Nueva Germania, & published in her self-help book for compatriots that Nueva Germania was a "paradise". She did go back in 1892, but the situation was hopeless, & she abandoned the place for good the next year. She had a new project at home. Nietzsche had always thought that Förster was an appalling oaf — they met just once, & clipped Elisabeth's diaries — & he became interested in the early 1880s to stop her brother's friendship with Lou Salomé. (Nietzsche had agreed to live in a threesome with Salomé & a Jewish friend.) He described Elisabeth herself as "a dangerous anti-semitic goose". In 1888, in The Case of Wagner, he repudiated the connection that had once meant much to him — "one of the diseases". His composer's pallor & his "chronic cold of mind & political absurdities" until they alone: In 1889, in the Twilight of the Idols, he wrote: "Once they [the Germans] were called the nation of thinkers: do they still at all? Nowadays the Germans are bored

Volk intellect — politics devours all seriousness ... Nowhere else are the two great European narcotics, alcohol & Christianity, so viciously abused. Lately even a third has been added ... our conspirated, constipated German music — how much dreary heaviness, dumpiness, sloppiness. Elizabeth had worshipped Wagner & his circle at Bayreuth, & was a wholly conventional Christian. But Nietzsche's increasing madness had begun to give him a fame he'd not had when sane, & Elisabeth saw that there was money to be made & a lot of standing to be gained from becoming his protector, publicist & publisher. The first task, which she quickly accomplished, was to wrest control from Peter Gast (Köselitz) his closest associate & the only one who could read his handwriting, & his mother. She hired a new editor & established a Nietzsche archive. She moved the archive to Weimar, & had the now insane philosopher, wrapped in white sheets & staring vacantly, wheeled out like a prize to elicit donations from the rich & silly; & donations & unsigned letters, diaries (censored), photographs & facsimiles for the ordinary tourists. Nietzsche as an idol now, in his own words, lived on until 1914. A few had thought the passage. Oscar Levy, e.g. the British Nietzsche, had promised The Will to Power, mostly a compilation by Elizabeth, was a runaway success on its publication on 1901. In the First World War Zarathustra sold a further 1.5 000 copies & was distributed to soldiers at the front. In the '20s, Elisabeth secured the support of Oswald Spengler. She enthused about about the new Nazi party. In 1927, she spoke the

reconciliation she'd long wanted between herself & the Nazis. She said by 1930 that Nazis were the hope of the future. She wrote a congratulatory letter to Hitler. In 1933 Hitler made the first of his many publicized visits to the archive. He never read a word of Nietzsche, but the Nietzsche Archive, so praised by Elizabeth, was a convenient decoration for the new regime. Hitler had his photograph taken staring ~~at the~~ into the statue of her brother, & eventually gave Elizabeth unlimited access to his private account. When she died in 1935, he came to pay homage, a guard of honour from the SA & the Hitler Youth lined the streets

Between 1919 & 1923, there were more than 700 political assassinations in Catalonia. The "bourgeois paradise", Barcelona was also the Anarchists' headquarters.

Damon Runyon is famous for shunning the ~~present~~ past tense, as in "I am going to take you back a matter of 4 or 5 yrs ago to an August afternoon ... On this day I am talking about, the Lemon Drop Kid is looking for business." Even when one of his stories has been told, is over, & he permits his protagonists a little late-night deconstruction, there is still this unmistakeable attachment to the past. "Well, Mr G." he says. "You should get a good break than old Joe Nevis & wipe dead after you stake his rope to the poison ..." His speech belongs to the past tense, but the author is determined not to put it there. According to one Commentator, there is in Runyon's New York tales "only one single instance of a present tense verb in the past tense [canto] I will lay sixty to five

Hood it is worth [illegible] a misprint." Jimmy Breslin reckons that Runyon caught the habit either from S. T. Coleridge or from listening to Woodrow Wilson evasively at court hearings. A more likely bet is that he caught it from Ring Lardner, from whom he picked up several of the hard-boiled, soft-centred tricks of style. In Runyon's wide-eyed fog-bound land, every one talks as if he has been taken by surprise. In most of the tales of Broadway low-life in the Twenties, the narrator has no part & not much of a present – or perhaps, like his characters, he has more past than he cares to remember & a future that is, to say the least, uncertain. He is Mr X & he functions as a warm-up man for the main actor. He can be found most nights in Mindy's Restaurant "parking on the petrified pot", ... "when in come these three parties from Brooklyn." The parties are mostly small-to-medium-time bad guys. They men with funny names & have funny names for what they do. They speak "guy-lingo" for "a little tattooing", "a soft-centre pipe", or "Mickey Finn" or "the old equalizer" "in order to earn some "thingity-thing-thing of doing the Lug". Innocent bystanders can now & then get caught people's crossfire. For some reason the hoods practically queue up for Mr X's table to tell him [illegible]: "Maybe you will like to hear the story" etc. The urge to narrate is portrayed as common to all gangsters of the epoch. The hoods have a natural aptitude for speaking Runyonese – a few lines installed to convey the Broadway accent & a slow brain & a speedy tongue. Runyon was the son of ill-tempered Indian fighter

turned a newspaperman, a drinker & a brawler. As far as he was able to, Runyon played the glamorous urban cowboy role: he talked tough, he dressed sharply, he mixed with the right wrong people & tried not to let on that for health reasons he had in young manhood forced to quit the drink; he married above himself, but not too far, dated chorus girls hardly, took a Mexican showgirl for his third (& in time his second) wife, & left everyone that she was really a Spanish Countess. By the end of the thirties, he was America's most highly-paid columnist, & the Broadway stories & which there were numerous Hollywood adaptations — made him a millionaire. Indeed, his price was about to go through the roof then, in 1946, he died of throat cancer at the age of 62 (or thereabouts; he always lied about his age). His own early flight from the cattle ranch seems to have made him pretty good at driving other people to do it (his first wife, his daughter & his son). In those days, when booze was at the heart of everything, the great spectator was on coffee. He always has the stopcock inside the inside slope. The aged Runyon, who collected dumb-bells & saw himself as "the ultimate Broadway horse guy", was for years in ignorance of his young second wife's affair with the Runyonesque Damon Chorfle. There was much chortling at his expense in Mindy's.

London Review of Books, 11 June 1992

There is nothing wrong with Regarding Henry as class. As the left-wing MP D. N. Pritt told the right-wing Labour leader Ernest Bevin, it was the only thing the two of them had in common. The pride that Society

consists of saying things everybody knows in language nobody understands. A young woman barrister said that a judge chewed her balls off for some mistake she had made. The myth that the truth of law is the ascertainment of truth. It is the Rabbit thing: the truth of law is forming cases. Everything depends on which of the competing versions of the known facts or contentions is most credibly presented.

Often we must be prepared to find that they can technically deny "seeing" a man if they "spoke" to him on the telephone.

Incomprehensibility & prestige often go hand in hand. Resentment or suspicion attends the "Hegel & Schlegels" who so reworked N Erich Heller's undergraduates. (To whom one could add the Krauses & Strausses, Brochs & Blochs, Kellers & Hellers) Karl Kraus: "Words are deeds". The press is no messenger of events; it is the events themselves; printer's ink turns into blood. Goethe's Faust puzzled petulantly over the opening passage of St John's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word." Words are contested. Must be a ridiculous Mistranslation, beginning "Word" to be changed to "Deed". J. P. Stern notes the parallel between the girlfriend of Socrates in Catch-22 who contends that she can't marry a man crazy enough to want to marry somebody, he knows isn't a virgin & the the cleanliness obsession in The Good Soldier Svejk against the telegraph girl he has been courting unsuccessfully: "What a whore! She won't let me sleep with her!" Freud, leaving Vienna in 1938, was asked to sign a declaration

declaring that he had not been ill-bred; like a parting guest writing in hotel visitors' book, he added the comment: "I can recommend the Gestapo most highly to everyone!" Stern argued that in Elias Canetti's fiction, the particulars, strikingly represented, did not readily into generalizations. Canetti doesn't always distinguish between originalities & commonplaces. In The Play of the Eyes, when he drops names, they suffer bruising (Joyce. Musil & Broch all are found wanting). Stern quotes Wittgenstein's question whether it is always an advantage to replace an indistinct picture by a sharp one. ("Is the indistinct one often exactly what we need?") Is indecision in philosophers, or honesty, or proper pride, to grant the impropriety of precise on occasion?

A. D. Nuttall, Open-ing: Narrative Beginnings from the Epic to the Novel. He is among the most erudite of contemporary academic literary critics, at ease with the Classics, much given to philosophy. A minute enquiry into the expression in medias res: Horace observed that Homer, instead of starting his poem about the Trojan war from the beginning — ab ovo, Leda's egg from which was hatched Helen of Troy, — dove he took his listeners "into the midst of things". To begin at the beginning may be thought a sensible & natural way of proceeding — the Red King's advice to Alice is still quoted with approval. F. C. Bartlett in his book Remembering tells how a Swazi woman, asked in court to describe how she got a knock on the head, began with an account of how she got up that day, how she met,

* Cf Racine, *Les Plaideurs*, III.3: "Arrest, ah! Par pous au déluge!"

& so on. When the magistrate interrupted to explain that all he cared about was how she got a knock on the head, she answered "All right, all right. I am coming to that... I have not got there yet," & continued inexorably with the blow-by-blow account of the day. Of course if you do reach your auditor *in medias res* you have eventually to provide analepses to explain what happened earlier, how the *res* came to be what they were at the point where you intervened. Moreover there is an *in prayerie* model for the above method. Genesis begins: "In the beginning..." Homer is where European literature begins for us, so we cannot know whether there was heroic precedent for the *in medias res* start of the *Iliad*. Nuttall makes much of the point that whereas Homer begins by calling on the Muse to sing, Virgil at once says, *Arma virumque cano*: that is, he is going to do the singing himself: here is a post-oral shift into what used to be called "secondary epic". There will be a formal invocation of the Muse but she has to wait a while, & the song will now come from within. Virgil's story can be called a Great Story & Homer's can't. Heroes travel in order to found an empire, Odysseus simply goes home. Virgil's story has manifest political implications. There is none of that sort in Homer.

A. D. Nuttall:[14] "Why do we enjoy Bazely? A fanciful, rational enlightened world—peopled as it was by marble figures in a state of tranquil felicity (think of Winckelman)—was replaced by an opposite world: blood, guilt & sacrifice, dream & vision, orgiastic music, incarnation. The picture of Augustan-

was dropped: instead of assuming that antiquity was somehow full of 18th-century rationalists having either no religion or a religion etiolated & simplified to the sanity of Natural Deism, it was at last noticed that the ancient world palpitates with spirits & deities, is crammed with unreasonable, alarming powers. Greek tragedy was fundamentally ritual, that it was religious in ways that modern find difficult. Leonardo da Vinci wrote in his note-books: "The sun has never seen any shadow". For an eye which is itself the source of light, shadows will always be on the far side of any object. For such an eye darkness is systematically suppressed. For the Greeks the sun was Apollo (called "most powerful eye" the Sophocles's Trachiniae). But Apollo, god of unshadowed light, not the only deity in the pantheon. Others also, for example Dionysos the god not only of intoxication but also of wildness, green nature, & the irrational. Nitzsche in effect said: "Apollo has been honoured for centuries: now Dionysus should be given his due." Was Nietzsche the first to notice the murky side of the ancient world. Frazer's The Golden Bough itself is in some ways a 19th-cent. rationalist work, finding the courage to be critical & unflinching for its very failures in enlightenment. Time & time again Frazer turns round & the Gibbon. There is a certain affinity between The Golden Bough &, say, the Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford, with its mask & blood-curdling fetishes. Tantum religio potuit suadere malorum. Hume, in his Natural History of Religion, points out the irrational character of concrete religion.

We smell Modernism, not when antiquity is shown to be irrational but when the irrationality is itself gratefully embraced. This is palpably true of "The Waste Land." There is considerable irony in Eliot's growing up in a time of world-weary scepticism & then finding something like religious belief only when he turned to a text designed to show the absurdity or wickedness of ritually-based religion. He disregarded the instructions on the bottle. Milton in his "Nativity Ode", back in the 17th century, had beaten Frazer to some of his material (Milton's "wounded Thammuz" is Frazer's Adonis), but for Milton, unlike Eliot, these Semitic deities were enemies of true religion to be hunted from their lairs at the truth of Christ. For Eliot, it is rather as if all the bodies are somehow telling of one thing — resurrection, hope out of death. The Eliot of "The Waste Land" is not yet Christian, but I think one can smell it coming. Eliot's talk of tradition is, in fact, the masking of an almost solipsistic error, & his Christianity (which I take to be real & strong) was stretched in darkness by a route other than reason. He loved Dante but his thought (though never Nietzschean) is much less close to Aquinas than it is to Schopenhauer — the first major European philosopher after Plato to turn to Indian religion. Schopenhauer had a bust of Buddha in his room & kept a portrait called Atma ("world-soul"). The Jesuit philosopher Copleston has noticed incidentally, how Bergson's influence (for Eliot is undoubted) is himself remarkably like Schopenhauer's. Nietzsche, indeed, is a theological nihilist & Eliot is not. Eliot's God, like Nietzsche's, died, but then, & unlike Nietzsche's, rose. Frazer did

not face to notice the analogy between Christian & pagan conceptions of the death & resurrection of their respective die deities, "the pagans contended that the resurrection of Christ was a spurious imitation of the resurrection of Attis, & the Christians asserted with equal ~~truth~~ warmth that the resurrection of Attis was a diabolical counterfeit of the resurrection of Christ... The Christian admitted, indeed, that in point of time Christ was the junior deity, but triumphantly demonstrated his real seniority by pulling back on the subtlety of Satan. Who on so important an occasion had outpaged himself by imitating the usual order of nature". Frazer's posture is one of Gibbonian contempt for all concerned—but especially for the Christians. E/107 Conversely is Eliot one of the benighted Confucians (remember here that Eliot's defense of those who in the Middle Ages read Virgil's Fourth Eclogue as a prophecy of Christ's coming). If the Enlightenment had bleached the ancient world, then Nietzsche, more than anyone else, was the agent of its darkening. Yet Nietzsche's assault on Christianity preserves many features of the previous Enlightenment assault. The general picture here of indeed of a realistic healthful ancient society succeeded by a set of weak, down-trodden persons, followers of a slave ethic which glorified torture & humiliation. This picture can be found in Gibbon, in the account of his Memoirs of what first moved him to write his great history. He quotes from Tertullian's De Spectaculis — the very same passage which Nietzsche quotes at a parallel moment in The Genealogy of Morals. Notice that Gibbon, like all great historians, is addressing the puzzle: how did the west become

the story? Nietzsche dedicated the first part of *The Genealogy of Morals*: Nietzsche dedicated *Human All Too Human* to Voltaire scent of the Enlightenment. On 30 May 1878, Nietzsche received through the post a bust of Voltaire with a slip of paper which: "L'âme de Voltaire fait ses compliments à Frédéric Nietzsche." Nietzsche's kind of anti-semitism has affinities has affinities with Enlightenment anti-semitism, in that it is cultural rather than racial. Lesley Stephen once observed that the high priests of 18th-cent. toleration are unskilled in their hostility to the Jews. They are against the Jews because they believe the Jews themselves to be enemies of toleration & the source of priestcraft, spiritual tyranny, the frightening of children through guilt. All these things are seen as Hebraic, as counter-Hellenic. It is almost as if, after centuries of being hated as the murderers of Christ, the Jews were now to be hated as the source of Christianity. *The Genealogy of Morals* is as much an outgrowth from Enlightenment historiography as it is a subversion of it. When he attacks the Christianity on the ground that it is fuelled by hatred & envy, his thought is *ethically* entirely conventional. As an account of Christianity it is indeed both "disturbing & disruptive" — that is quite another matter. He is saying: "Christians prate of love but really they are driven by hate." But notice how such passages can be read by Christians in a penitential spirit & grateful assent. The reason is simple: Nietzsche here presupposes that love is good & hate good. Were this not the case, his words would not constitute an attack. On other occasions Nietzsche is really sub-

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such passages cause the gorge to rise. "Not very long ago a royal wedding or great public celebration would have incomplete without executions, tortures & autos de fé... To behold suffering gives pleasure, but to cause another to suffer affords an even greater pleasure!" Nietzsche denounced cruelty. At such points his attack on altruism becomes ethically fundamental. There is a shift from "Apparently altruistic behaviour is commonly self-seeking" (which continues to privilege real altruism as a virtue) to "Altruism, pity etc. are themselves contemptable forms of weakness, a lower health" (e.g. the notorious attack on pity in Antichrist). In a manner deeply congenial to the 18th cent. he is in effect using "nature" as a source of prescription: "This is what we are, tragically, originally; therefore I logical [sic] this is the way we ought to be; the first truth is the real truth, the real life". Nietzsche is profoundly the opposite of Aristotle. Aristotle as a zoologist tends to see things as most themselves when they reach the end of a complex development. Nietzsche, conversely, tends to be an eager victim of the "Genetic Fallacy" ("oak trees are disguised acorns"). There is, indeed a curious retrocast in the Genealogy with regard to ancient philosophy. In the Birth of Tragedy this darkening of anti-Faith is explicit. The Socratic spirit was considered fatal to tragedy. Tragedy, a high point of culture for Nietzsche, is seen as a chiaroscuro, the bright God Apollo in tension with the dark God Dionysus. The ancient association of knowledge with light is here pressed apart. The deepest knowledge is now fused with a formless darkness. There is none

element in the scheme of *The Birth of Tragedy*. Which is endlessly misexplained. Dionysus is *not* the god of the dream world. Apollo is the god of dream; Nietzsche contrasts dream with Dionysiac intoxication. Apollo is the god of "plastic powers"—of form & light—while Dionysus is associated with music, with the expression of Schopenhauerian Will. To align Dionysus with dream is due to the contamination of Freudian influence. Nietzsche is more subversive than Freud, who in *Civilization & its Discontents* was more than half willing to see the pleasure principle domesticated by a species of Utilitarian calculus. Freud believes in the reality of the world investigated by science. Nietzsche, in this a true disciple of Schopenhauer, does not. The god of light is for him a god of unreality—of "fair illusion". He uses the Kantian phrase *Ding an sich* to privilege music above "phenomenon" or empirical "appearance". He associates Apollo with the principle of individuation, itself a source of illusions. His rejection of the phenomenal world comes very close to the weird conclusion: "Existents don't exist; Nothing alone Is." The notion of a potent Nothingness is endemic in Existentialism—especially in the now despised Sartre. Deconstruction reasserts the *néant* by demonstrating the infinitely receptive character of purportedly rational discourse. Schopenhauer, so to speak, saw all this coming; he carefully explained how he has a need for the word "nothing" which is ontologically positive. On the one hand, we have Nietzsche & his epigoni, Cornford, Jane Harrison, Murray Dodds, A. W. H. Dodds telling us as a matter of scholarship that the ancient

World in general & ancient Tragedy in particular were permeated by religion, & on the other hand we have Aristotle who appears not to know that Greek tragedy was religious. Pickard-Cambridge completely demolished Murray's theory. The Zeitgeist is dictating the terms. "Pleasure in tragedy looks like cruelty? Why, then, we are cruel, but unconsciously so," says Freud. Those who attend to the œdipic hedone, that strange sweetness of grief & fear, will wish to look further. Nietzsche suggested that tragic pleasure might spring from our sense of re-immersion in pre-individuated consciousness—in the Dionysiac unity of the multitude—as the chorus does. Nietzsche's idea has the merit of being founded on a close engagement with actual poetic output of Greek tragedy. It is striking that the choruses of Greek tragedy, with their energetic, heavily syncopated rhythms, exist in a kind of tension with the very different verse uttered by the individual persons of the play. But Nietzsche also says that the dying god tragedy is always a form of Dionysus himself and that Dionysus represents the principle of anti-individuation. Surely, on Nietzsche's theory, he ought to have argued that tragedy dramatised the death of Apollo. Once more, one suspects that the Zeitgeist is dictating the terms. Nietzsche, like other acquainted, over-introspective post-Romantics, feels a nostalgia for a supposed primal unity. But Greek tragedy was in fact beginning in the opposite direction—becoming more & more absorbed by the isolated self-standing agent, in contradistinction to the group. The human capacity to think provisionally, to do thought-experiments, to form hypotheses, to imagine alternative

Ivor Winters: "The fallacy of imitative form: the attempt to express a state of mind directly by the reproduction of its process."

before it happens, is fundamental to our nature & to our biological success. Sir Karl Popper remarked that our hypotheses "die in our stead." The human race has found a way, if not to abolish then to defer & diminish the Darwinian threat of death. Of all the literary genres tragedy is the one which lays the heaviest emphasis on ending & the ending is a witness' death. In tragedy we sympathise, we experience the dying, but of course we do not die. The hypothesis dies instead.

Now the Grasmere industry, a solidly thriving concern, editors of Wordsworth soon get out of business, & tourists will continue to flock in gratifying numbers.

Alan Abel, The Wreck of the Deutschland addresses the mystery of what happened to Henrica Fafstrunder & exactly when, & whether or not she was "the tall nun" whom Hopkins exalts as the heroine of the wreck who with the dying cry "O Christ, Christ, come quickly" became the inspiring focus of those terrible hours. The ultimate version was "My God, make haste" which might have been anybody, not a nun, shouting at a distant life-boat.

A veritable epidemic of multiple personalities has been happening in North America. It began about 1972; by 1992 the disorder is flourishing. There are multiples who organise themselves into self-help groups, publish newspapers & the like. Typically, a patient had two states, one ordinary, one inhibited. Now we have many amnesia no memory of the gay & merry one. Most of the

-ivic Popeye the Sailorman, he is what he is & he ain't what he ain't.

patients were young women. Men most commonly had what came to be called fugues: a man about to be married or in a mid-life crisis would disappear & take up a new personality in another town, with no memory of his previous existence. Occasionally a third "alter" personality manifested itself. Alters not only had different memories, mannerisms & skills, but also they somehow looked different, especially in the cast of the eye. - Connecticut writer whose patient was described in Sybil (1974) & had 16 personalities. The Three Faces of Eve (1957) The Five of Me (1977), The Minds of Billy Milligan (1981) "Tell me who I am before I die (1977), The Flock (1991)

In Return to Essentials, G. K. Elton remarks: "The absurd is always sounds better in French."

Mr Jelmie remark that no woman has ever given more pleasure in bed than Agatha Christie is much too kind. All those dreadful "rules" invented for the detective story the most inescapable was that the personages should be cossetted jiggled about to follow the Plot. "Who cares who killed Roger Ackroyd?" shouts Edmund Wilson, exasperated, but who barely would be a matter today. For Mr. Bleaklees in the guestroom in even the darkest of chairs, is going to pound sleepily upon Freeman Wills Crofts? Bad in 1930 — name to conjure with

June 22, 1992. London Review of Books.

Proust wrote too many letters. His correspondence is too much of it mechanical or emptily ingratiating, the one remaining exercise of the social writer by a man who has taken to his bedroom. As he declined daily in his

petit hermitage, he came to worry about what once he was dead his letters would be published or sold at auction, & he even asked a lawyer whether he could stop that happening. He found he could not, & concluded wearily that his letters would eventually become so many "arrows returned against him". He told Jacques Rivière (in a letter), he was un athée de l'amitié but got "practical friendship with far greater fervour than so many of its apostles". He keeps company with a whole Dramatis of big fish & small. Generally, from the correspondent shows far more feeling & tact & discretion & decency than he is given credit for. He is more M. de Norpois than the Baron de Charlus. Jamais Sainte-Beuve, Proust included or two selves for the two worlds, a face only for when he was in company & a & daytime, a moi profond for when he was alone & writing. Letters may be written in solitude, but they are not written by the moi profond. This need for duplicity finds an oblique reflection in a late essay on Flaubert which grossly misjudges his correspondence as "mediocre". The printing of the successive volumes of *A la recherche* was one of the great dramas of French publishing history. When *Du Côté de chez Swann* appeared the misprints were a scandal, a good thousand of them, but the excusable fault of type-setters who had had to work from galley & then palimpsest from proof, the original wording having been overgrown by the author's scrawled & spidery additions. It was published by Grasset in 1913 at Proust's own expense. French literature's supreme modern masterpiece had begun as a piece of vanity publishing.

rivaled the fathering explicitness of his debut put him beyond the social pale & doosh once & for all his chances of the Légion d'Honneur or a seat in the Académie Française? He hoped for both, labouring the part of academician Henri de Régnier in after-the complicated-demo. He asserts the morality of the later parts of his story very strongly, even claiming them to be "religious". In 1920 those appointed to the rank of chevalier in the Légion d'Honneur included—in the a section of the list he thought demeaning, containing as it did various sub-literary figures—the unfortunately full name of "Thomas (Valentin-Georges-Eugène-Marcel)"; the Academy he did not live to enter. He hated the idea that his novel should be taken as it so readily was, for a roman à clé; there was, he said, so many clés for each character & episodes. To those like the absurdly fortunate, snobby & by now moribund Robert de Montesquiou, quick to pick out members of his own plush acquaintance among the novel's characters (though seemingly blind to any resemblance between himself & the monstrous Charlus), Proust spoke the prerogative of Sphinxes. Health & money are the other two truly engrossing concerns of Proust's last letters. His room is lucky to be aired once a week from the reek of fumigants. He is unwell & beleaguered. He was forced to move out from the old apartment in the boulevard Haussmann where he had lived for many years, into what he loved to call a "slum" in the Rue Hamelin. He had to leave his famous cork tiles behind, because of the expense & memory-theme to put up as a consequence to soften the sound of the couple next door having sex. He was made appropriately generous when it came to gifts; in the

one carrying letters written to Alfred Agostinelli, his chauffeur & perhaps his lover, who had left him to go & take flying lessons on the Côte d'Azur. Proust rose to a profit in which he had obviously made to buy the runaway his own aeroplane. The letter arrived in the South on the same day as Agostinelli was killed when his plane dived into the Mediterranean. Agostinelli's aeroplane had Proust ever bought it, was to have cost 27,000 frs — the price cost in 1914 in Paris of a Rolls-Royce car (cache the narrator agrees to buy for the fugitive Albertine in the novel), as Philip Kolb points out in his notes.

Contradictory verdicts on André Malraux. "He's the great novelist of the revolution to come that never came." "He was always speaking about fraternity, about the masses, but no — he was an aristocrat!" "From his childhood, such he later, he had to forge a mask. He needed that." The Paris bookshops last December were displaying a crisp new volume in the austere Gallimard uniform, bearing a red publicity band with the single name MALRAUX in white capital letters. It was a compilation of Napoleon's writings that Malraux had made almost anonymously in 1930, published as Vie de Napoléon par lui-même. The publishers obviously felt that "Malraux" was a better selling name than that of the Emperor himself. Herbert Lottman: "All his life long Malraux was an actor playing Malraux". For all of this life he let it be believed, by allusions, knowing nods, sometimes by outright fabulation, that he had been party to the Bolshevik task force of Mikhail Borodin in Canton in 1925. He even

said as much in the brief biographical note composed by himself for the first German translation of The Conquerors in ~~1928~~ 1925. In fact, he may scarcely have set foot on the Chinese mainland when he wrote The Conquerors. Yet the book convinced no less a reader than Leon Trotsky. Most apprehensive, Hom Nyktmalig was his earlier exploration, with his first wife Clara, to pre-Cambodian antiquities with a view to selling them in the U.S. In a sense they were thieves & indeed they apprehended. Malraux was tried & convicted although his sentence was later suspended after protests from Paris organized party by his wife. His adventure led on to his running an anti-colonial newspaper. His subsequent role in the Spanish Civil War against Franco has also been fictionized, largely because he threw in his lot with the Communists — although he continued to criticize them elsewhere. Four and a ½ years after the fall of France in World War Two, in fact, he settled in the so-called "Free Zone" into South to write The Walnut Trees of Altenburg. Here was, living in some style at St Jean-cap-Ferrat with his new wife companion Josette Clotis, during a partly historical novel whose intellectual core was what Conor Cruise O'Brien calls "a Franco-German colloquium". Josette fell under a train & died; she left him 2 sons. Malraux's two brothers were killed — one of them absurdly, when the Allies bombed his Nazi prison ship. Malraux then married his brother's widow Madeleine. His Fallen Oaks (Les Chênes qu'on abat) is a kaleidoscopic approach based on one last conversation with De Gaulle. The Malraux de la Culture

* Barbara Pym, *The Pym Parcel* 82 p.253. "'Miss Mathews' Diary' [Cecil Gaylord's MS to be added to your world in this book]."

that he established in the Bonn Republic generally seems expensive fiction.

For Willy Brandt the Ostpolitik was the main object of his life. The process of "closing through increasing closeness" (*Wandel durch Annäherung*, the phrase invented by Brandt's old friend Egon Bahr in 1963) has gradually succeeded. West Germany has effectively annexed Germany. Gorbachev has fallen too, & gone to Bad Honnef to talk to well-paid climbs in lecture-land where Brandt's old rival Helmut Schmidt also wanders. Brandt in his old age advised his comparatively old friend Mikhail Gorbachev not to try to be everywhere at once. One of Brandt's closest advisers, Günter Guillaume, proved to be a long-standing East German agent. The mystery, pointedly revived by Brandt himself, is why the West German security services kept for so long to themselves the knowledge that Guillaume was a spy. In June of the time, it was rumoured that the Minister of the Interior, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, had decided to keep the lid on the pot for a little longer until the goose in it was well & truly cooked. And it proved to be a fine meal. Brandt resigned.

On 10 January 1957 the momentous news reached the family publishing house in St Martin's Lane. "Mr Macmillan has just been made Prime Minister", his elder brother Daniel was told by an excited secretary. "No, Mr Macmillan has not been made prime minister," the chairman corrected her. "Mr Harold has." * Mr Daniel & Mr Alexander were the founders of the family firm. They made their way into publishing via bookselling: when

under Alexander's stern guidance that the Macmillan family fortune flourished. Mr Frederick, Mr Maurice & Mr George were to work together for nearly a century. Jargon schmargon all this psychologizing. Sir John Colville recorded in his diary: "I don't like the word-be ingratiating way in which Macmillan bares his teeth." Macmillan enjoyed a magnificent old age, which he put to excellent use in paying off the debts of a long life-time. As his infirmities increased, he did not abridge his ability to make others work for him. At 90 he could hold the House of Lords in the palm of his palsied hand. His American mother had endured a succession of bereavements which left her a widow at 18. She responded with indie-rubber resilience & Christian fortitude. Nellie Hill went to Paris, married Maurice Macmillan & moved to England, thoroughly Anglicising herself. When Harold married a duke's daughter Nellie's social aspirations were fulfilled. Birch Grove, the Macmillan country house, was made available to the happy couple, rather than to Harold's elder brothers, but mother in constant attendance as her daughter-in-law's helpmeet. Lady Dorothy, being a Cavendish, made no secret of her loathing for the old lady & of her fast-diminishing maternal passion. Harold's friend & colleague Bob Boothby soon made up for Harold's deficiency in the red. When Harold became Prime Minister Lady Dorothy's lover promptly asked for a post in the new Cabinet, but had to make do with a peerage.

The factious giants of Elizabeth's court are supported by a vast foot-system

to get himself talked about & become a "talking head" on the screen

& con-men, & prison informers, spies, "projectors" & "embodexters". Christ-opher Marlowe was part of this underground. Mrs Bull's house was not a tavern, & she had a civil suit out, with some court connections. In As you like it, Shakespeare made a reference to Marlowe's death, cryptic but pointed: "a great reckoning in a little room". He must have been in the service of spies; poetry wasn't a living. His patron was Thomas Walsingham, the great-grandnephew of Sir Francis.

London Review of Books, 9 July 1992

Metre & verse form tend to be language-specific, so it isn't actually possible in most cases to reproduce them in translation. As Borges has said, all translation involves sacrifice, i.e. the translator has to decide which aspects of the original will have to be discarded. When Pound began translating Chinese poetry he solved at a stroke the problem of previous translators from that language by deciding not to imitate the Chinese verse forms. When he translated Cavalcanti's sonnets, however, he recognised that the poems would simply collapse without something resembling the original rhyme-scheme. Robert Maxwell was a rogue of the first order, but no one can say that he was not warned that he was "not a fit & proper person to have charge of a public company". Not the least interesting question is why, with that sort of record, banks were so eager to lend large sums of money to him. Nowadays, "the City" in common parlance tends to mean finance only

Of Jests: Remark in the Cheshire cheese one night / with poets so thick they blocked the light / "None can tell who's tallest if any / Only one thing is certain. We are too many".

When A Shropshire Lad was published in 1896, it was at the author's own expense; presumably it did not then look like work that would attract the public. It was not in the drift of the times: Housman was not the man to be a "Companion of the Cheshire Cheese". He It was not fair to the thing for the Yellow Book. Housman was 6 yrs older than Yeats & 8 yrs older than Lionel Johnson, but they were much more dependent than he was on the work of the Victorian era, & it was the novelty of his tone which set him apart. He felt rather for the straightforward rhythms of Heine & the Border Ballads, but he imported into them an entirely individual cadence. He wrote a part by design, as Yeats, looking back his lovely hair, may be said to have been. He died / Of course he might have followed, to a regular academic career in Oxford was depleted. He joined himself in the Patent Office & shared a flat with his friend Moses Jackson - The Name & Nature of Poetry: "Poetry very seldom consists of poetry & nothing else, & pleasure can be derived from their other ingredients. I am convinced that most readers, when they think they are admiring poetry -- are really admiring NOT the poetry, the passage before them but something else in it, which they like better than poetry." Pound remarked of critics who take the ground that Jojo's opinion of Jinjim's explanation of Shakespeare will shed greater light on the reader & initiate him into a higher degree of perception than would the perusal of the bard's original text. If he emphasized the danger of thus losing the line of poetry Rule Theorem ("my shin throbbed so that the pain ceased to razor

ock"), it was no doubt to make clear to everyone that he had no confidence in the Cambridge pastions of his day. Bailey John Bayley: "The student Jeanie-pigs whose reception of poems is recorded in Practical Criticism could not have been expected to have this reaction, or to base their judgment on it. Nor did they." "I have not so much improved as to become a literary critic, nor so much deteriorated as to fancy that I have become one". A Shropshire Lad begins with "1887", a poem on Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Frank Harris & some of his journalist friends "tried to flatter the author by praising the "bitter sarcasm" of the poem. Housman reacted angrily. "To-night they built their bonfires bright, / To-night they bring the cannon out, / The sailors come not home to-night: / Themselves they could not save." Bayley comments, rather mal-à-propos: "as if the troops in Vietnam had been engaged in saving their president." "Be you the men you've been, / Get you the sons your fathers got, / And God will save the Queen." There is a genuinely popular element in A Shropshire Lad. "As with Shakespeare's Sonnets, a key & a lock have be supplied by the Customer; the maker did not imagine the need for one" (Bayley). There are always those who prefer dark lady to Sonnets, or any kind of explanation to the more pleasant of poetry.

Auden, had he been Laureate, would have been almost too apt to do what went with the job. For Larkin, perhaps the Queen was the fixed point in a spinning world. We wretched country will never do better, never mind

its ways, while that gracious personage is gracious upon stamped coinage? Thank God she is! Take your choice. Alfred Austin at least had the courage of his own vulgarity.

Andrew Morton, Diana: Her True Story. In order to live personality an individual ought to have one. So there, in the personality stakes, does this leave a 30-year-old woman with two kids, a minimum of education & no gratifications, trapped in a dead marriage to an absentee husband? Nowhere, of course, but right bang on the top of the international list if her old man happens to be the next king of England. "The most obvious outward sign of inner development was her old Sloaney hairstyle which signified the liberation she'd made from her past life." The suggestion is that we might shortly be privileged to see her (just before her canonisation along with her pal, Mother Teresa) with an entirely shaved head). Since Charles is a cad—he walks away when she flings herself head first down the stairs, he mocks her when he finds her reading Gerzion Lewis on death & holding the hand of a friend—she is petulant about her popularity with the population. Worst of all is his persistent liaison with the divine Camilla Parker-Bowles. All this has made Diana increasingly her own woman: But since when were royal marriages supposed to be happy? Waking as she does from a dream, she's a bit grumpy, feeling a little cheated by reality. With all due respect to Las Casas & to the moral examples of the Spanish Crown, with all admiration for the Jesuits' protection of the Indian, we must

never forget that the object of the conquest was the destruction of a heathen culture & the substitution for it of the true faith. As in Cordoba, so in Mexico, we see the conquerors tearing down the fabric of one kind of holy place to build churches on their sites. This suicidal destruction was so systematic that – in spite of some belated attempts at rescue – only 3 of the written Maya codices are still extant, & their characters have been only incompletely deciphered. In fact, we can read the records of pre-Columbian civilisations far less than ancient hieroglyphics & cuneiform tablets. The artefacts of these civilisations found their way to Europe, admired by experts like ~~Albert~~ Albrecht Dürer for their workmanship & beauty but without becoming the subject of serious artistic interest until the 20th century. Spanish & English benefit from the fact that their languages have, thanks to their past conquests in the Americas, become world languages. The countries of the Americas have long ceased to be transatlantic extensions of Spain, Portugal & England, even for the local élites. When the cultural, social & economic history of the modern world is written in realistic terms, the conquest of Southern Europe by Muslim & Northern & Eastern Europe by the Turks, & both by tobacco & more recently Coca-Cola, will appear more prominently than the gold & silver for the sake of which the Americas were subjected.

London Review of Books, 23 July 1992

The Monstrous Regiment of Women is responsible for the death of Civilisations as "We" know it. In 1986 Lesley Abdela & Harold Gale

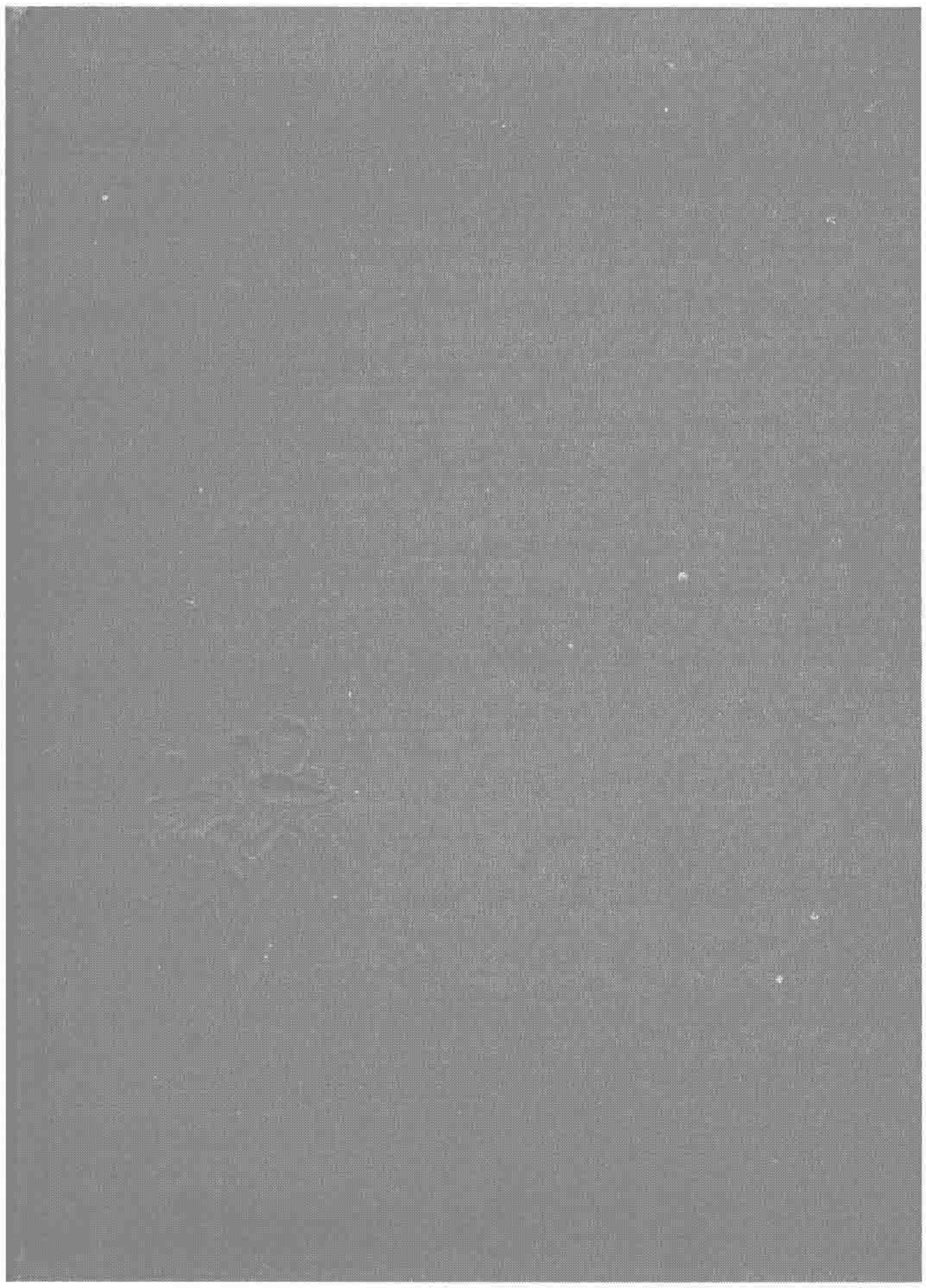
produced a highly-touted Study of marriage, which "claimed that a college-educated unmed woman at the age of 30 has a 20 per cent likelihood of marriage, at 35 a 5 per cent chance, & at 40 w more than a 1-3 per cent chance". The study an immediate hit. The message was clear. Educated women were to feel humble, anxious & concerned about their marital status. Susan Faludi, Backlash: The Undeclared War against Women revealed by the later census population charts that between the ages of 24 & 34 there were 119 single men for every hundred single women. This dispels the notion that the USA is awash in a record glut of single women. Women are not intentionally delaying marriage or have taken up celibacy. "The Cohabitation rate in Britain" tripled between 1979 & 1988". Single men have more nervous breakdowns & depressions, are thrice as prone to suicide as married men. The most cheerful group of women, the least prone to mental problems, are the never-married. The Backlash phenomenon in advertising, films news programmes & scientific pseudo-studies are attempts to re-feminize Women. The immediate objective was to ensure that females became eager to marry, & uncomplaining about supporting their children, their households & themselves, while cooking their husbands. In fact, supporting a family in middle-class style increasingly demands two pay-checks. The point is to ensure that women cannot depend on keeping to make ends meet & entitlement. We are given the picture of dangerous feminists as tough career women taking over the boardroom & the law court, the operating theatre & the marketplace. In Backlash films like Working Girl & Baby Boom,

E. R. Dodds: "The essence of ritual is repeatability."
"a positive model role."

the women were being re-educated to know their place. These films were aimed at the "yuppie" woman, the one most likely to have education & ambition, & perhaps, to have run into feminist theory in some form or other. They could all get the message. The avoidance of strong women in TV dramas & the preponderance of males in broadcasting. Even when a woman is the apparent centre of a television drama in the 80's, her real role is to represent female powerlessness & feminine lack of authority. In the ~~bubble~~ balloon-like bubble skirts, less material was used than formerly, but dress price went up some 30 per cent. Advertisers, designers, stores still went at it hammer & tongs, proclaiming the "Year of the Dress," telling women that everything else was outmoded & had to go. Despite the women's success at work, yet for American Cyanamid, male workers protected the company most infamously introduced a "foetal protection clause" which required women workers to be sterilised if they wanted to continue to hold their jobs. The protection policy offered no "protection" for men whose sperm could be adversely affected by working with the chemicals. Fashion designers, giant stores, etc. now threatened into the desired trying to make women wear short skirts. In the Closing of the American Mind (1987) Allan Bloom is very open about his anger at the women's movement: "Feminism," he warns, "triumphs over the family." (Civilisation & Its Woes It must entail the enslavement of women. Women in India need a dowry to marry, & when the groom's family,

continues to make demands the bride may commit suicide or her husband's family may kill her. An Indian historian "calls bride-burning a new form of capital accumulation." Continental Airlines in 1993 dismissed a young woman for refusing to wear make-up. (Presumably a man would be dismissed for wearing it). A Harvard professor of law who wrote a feminist article for the Harvard Law Review was knifed to death. Professor Fraser's death has mysteriously never been solved. Harvard seems bound to fulfil the prophetic title of the Amanda Cooper murder mystery, Death in a Tenured Position & to prove as true Cooper's implicit contention that anti-feminism among academics is frequently lethal. Clarissa is an excellent analysis of our rape culture & what it means to live in a rape culture. Indeed the military ideology of "manhood" is enshrined in a language of bombs & torpedoes that endorses the release of bombs & missiles as a form of fucking that is super-sex — better than sex, that for which active sex serves only as a metaphor. There were (& are) only two women in the American Senate. Women don't necessarily want marriage — marriage is mainly what has traditionally been on offer. Austen clearly states the economic reasons for marrying: it's the property, the social position. That is why she got scalded by Walter Scott for lack of romance, a lack of belief in the magic of love. The word "proletarian" comes from reproduction — the proles are those who can only produce "proles", progeny. Women are the original & paramount proletarian. More "natural" function of producing children should be taken into custody by a "male" society. And Iran, where no social change threatens, the popular backlash seems to be to monitor & punish the women.

No.211



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London Review of Books, 23 July, 1992

John Carey, The Intellectuals & the Masses. Pride & Prejudice among the Literary Intelligentsia. When Henry James's play, Guy Domville, was booed off the London stage, the embarrassed author remarked that at least some of the audience was clapping. These approvers were powerless to out-clamour the "hoots & jeers & Eton calls of the Rough", whose roars were "like those of a cage of beasts at some infernal zoo"; but for James they represented "the forces of civilisation". Another way would have been to identify them as personal friends of the author-playwright. Full marks to James, though, for looking on the bright side. A few days later, his face was not as brave: "I have fallen upon evil days ... the sense of the utterly out of it & new generation I dwelled me down, & I asked from myself what the future would be." This was 1895, & James's way out of his depression was to decide, "That's right – be one of the few .... [and renounce] the childishness of publics." Henceforth he would not care if "scarce a human being will understand a word, or an intention, or an actual element of any sort" in what he wrote. Some of his almost immediate successors, Eliot, Joyce, Pound and Co. seemed similarly indifferent to whether their intentions were understood. The new literacy had no sooner arrived than it had come under the guidance & control of a new set of tribal chiefs, not Lord Northcliffe & the editor of Tit-Bits at its head (John Carey: "an alternative culture which by-passed the intellectual & made him redundant." It was a culture that ruled itself up as it went along but its audience could be numbered in millions & its delights, it provided were not at all that easy to distinguish from those which the old high culture used to have on offer. This If any Gate, was the consumer's creed. The heirs of high culture saw these new vehicles of entertainment as degradations of the human spirit, manipulations of the mob's intelligence, for profit. They also saw that, if so directed, the mob intelligence was capable of more nasty – books could be banned, magazines made to expire from lack of funds. For retaliation, they affected a disdain for the requirements of the mob & began to evoke apocalyptic visions of an imminent "deluge of barbarism". Other sprang of the

"malodorous rabble", "the monster with a million worm-like heads". Ignorance it might be argued, & envy intellectuals acquired a notion of their own sanctity: unbound by the unshaked, they could become warriors on behalf of an imperilled "life of the imagination" — or, in Carey's words, they could "give themselves" "as engaged upon dangerous & energetic pursuits when in fact they [were] merely looking at pictures & reading books". "Make it new!" cried Pound, even as he handed out reading lists that stretched back to the Middle Ages & beyond. Thanks to the Leavises & their cohorts, the discussion eventually spread into almost every schoolroom in the land. All advertising was ~~taken~~ regarded as evil, all journalism a threat to the survival of the species all pop music a sure way of catching something called "sex in the head." We read Brave New World so as to learn how things might work out if we did not read Brave New World. And this was pre-TV, pre-Beatles. We were encouraged to become little culture-vultures who had actually read next to nothing. Was it among the mini-bonsai of D'Nood that Carey feared to despise the superior posturings of literary intellectuals? In his view, most doms were lucky to get paid at all. "The most obnoxious thing about doms is their uppishness." So this can be said of the highbrow tomes. The book is about attitudes, not artworks. However the intellectual chose to dress up their disdain, it was a class-based & had its roots in a fear & loathing of the mass. Much of the damaging material has already been displayed in John Harrison's The Reflexives (1966) but not so horribly & so angrily as here. Authors like Chesterton, Conan Doyle &, pre-eminently, Arnold Bennett ("the hero of this book") are not much rewritten in malevolence. "A common reason for liking particular literary works is pride, the knowledge that other people do not like them."

Why the English, among Western nations, match the French in the lack of hero-worship (consider the sinister fates of Churchill & De Gaulle in the immediately post-war period). French authors, however, have certainly tried far harder than their English counterparts to win lasting admiration. The efforts of Louis XIV were

* Peter Burke, *The Fabrication of Louis XIV*

baby staggering. Images of the King were commissioned in paint, bronze, stone, tapestry, pastel, enamel, terracotta & wax. The royal library paid for at least 300 statues & paintings of Louis XIV, & 700 engravings. The King employed 20 "historiographers royal" to record the events of his reign for posterity. Like as not Napoleon, the monuments have endured. While the public image they were built to sustain have cracked & crumbled. Saint Simon's account of the dreadful winter of 1709-10, when the price of bread rose tenfold or more, & millions stood on the brink of starvation while Louis pursued a ruinous war, puts one in mind of Tadeusz Borowski's comment on the human price paid for the monuments of antiquity: "The Egyptian pyramids, the temples & Greek statues—what a hideous crime they were." Like an investigative reporter set loose on Saatchi & Saatchi, Burke has a keen eye for detail. One learns how the equestrian statue on Place Louis-le-Grand was "so large that 20 men could sit down to lunch inside the horse—& in fact did so while the statue was being installed." Here is also the story of the obsequious poet who managed to cram 58 favourable adjectives for the King—from *aggréable* to *Zélé*—into one sonnet. The King's ministers, like those of Stalin or Kim Il Sung, constructed an artificial public persona. Louis in the flesh was short & balding, but "Louis the Great" was tall & fabulously muscled. Marc Bloch's classic *The Royal Touch* investigated how French & English kings supposedly "cured" scrofula & other skin diseases by a quasi-magical laying on of hands. In the Renaissance, kings had travelled peripatetically within the kingdom, frequently staging *entrées royales* to display themselves to the population. The intricate royal funeral ceremonies, which lasted for weeks, demonstrated the distinction between an "everyday" royal dignity & the life & death of particular kings. Until the accession, the new King remained out of sight while an effigy of his predecessor, holding the symbols of sovereignty, was waited upon, talked to, & even served meals. The intricate system of etiquette was recorded by Saint-Simon. Royal ceremonial focused not on grand public occasions but on the most intimate aspects of private life. Even the acts of

keeping a jury to bed had strictly-choreographed ceremonies to accompany them —see Norbert Elias's classic The Court Society. The attempt to "fabricate public images remains at the heart of politics, though the quality of the images has declined in the age of election billboards & thirty-second television advertisements.

In 1989 the National Interest, an American journal, published an article by Francis Fukuyama called "The End of History": It was reprinted around the world in a burst of discussion. Not many people agreed with his claim that the End of Communism spells the End of History. Now we have the book of the article, weighing in at around 400 pages. A country which achieves both capitalism & liberal democracy has a reason to move on. The goal has been reached. They can all live happily ever after. He quite properly makes no claim to originality. He draws on Plato, Hobbes, Machiavelli, Marx and especially Hegel who first declared the End of History. But Fukuyama expounds the message in an updated version deriving from lectures on Hegel given in Paris in the thirties by an emigré Russian named Alexandre Kojève. Kojève is the chief architect of Fukuyama's vision of history. An exchange took place in the Fifties between Kojève & the eminence grise of American conservatism, Leo Strauss. They disagreed about whether a little dialogue that Xenophon wrote —Hiero— provides an adequate understanding of modern tyranny. Strauss had said that it did, but he was sufficiently impressed by Kojève's objections to reply to it in a reply (Hiero who's revised & enlarged form appears in On Tyranny edited by Allan Bloom (1965). Bloom, the best-known publicist of Strauss's ideas, edited in 1969 the English translation of a selection of Kojève's thoughts on Hegel. Strauss fought against historicism — the notion that events & ideas should be explained in terms of their historical context.

TLS, August 2, 1991

When T. H. Huxley wrote the first post-Darwinian book about human evolution, Man's Place in Nature (1893), not a single human fossil had been unearthed,

When Ernst Haeckel wrote *The History of Creation* (1868), no human fossils were known; & when Darwin wrote *The Descent of Man* (1871), still none had been found. In the next few years, the first fossil human skeleton was found in a cave in the Neander Valley in Germany, & 1891 Eugene Dubois & dug up *Homo erectus* in Java; but Arthur Keith, in his first paper about human evolution, in 1895, could still reasonably lament: "Only 4 individuals to represent the millions & millions of men that must have lived & died in Europe many times." This lack of evidence did not stop anthropologists or biologists from writing books about the subject, & G. R. Clarkson could memorably complain that "the scientists seem to know everything about the missing link except that it is missing." The earliest hominid fossils are comparatively recent, being about 3.5 millions years ago; they are called *Australopithecus afarensis* & have been found both in Ethiopia & Tanzania. Those are fossils sufficiently like us to be put into our genus, *Homo habilis*. From *Homo habilis* there is a fairly clear lineage through *Homo erectus* (c. 1.7–0.5 millions years ago) to archaic *Homo sapiens* & the Neanderthals who became extinct 40,000 years ago to form indistinguishable from men & women today.

Richard D. Altick, *The Presence of the Present: Topics of the Day in the Victorian Novel*, 854 pp. "Realism", e.g. p. 207 the same as "Contemporaneity": "Realistic details may be used to give an effect of solidity to a novel, but they may also be historical, contemporary, anachronistic, or invented. No avowedly historical novel is readily identified. Some Victorian novels, set in the past, dealt with issues still active when they were published. Some, set in the present, incorporated details lifted from the past. Others, deliberately projected backwards in time, are nevertheless contemporary in treatment. The exigencies of the plot often required a novel to be telescopically lengthened. Some novelists 'distanced' themselves: they set the plots back 10 or 20 years while making no effort to adjust the details to that. Only Trollope's novels are nearly all firmly contemporary. The novel is a treacherous ground for a historian. Authors are not oracles; & when

put in the witness box their evidence is far from satisfactory.
A publishing house is a business after all, not a fount of wisdom. Yet despite all the takeovers & mergers, most publishers would like readers to believe that a book coming out under their name has met certain standards. However, they also enthusiastically publish bilge. Bloomsbury will publish Nostradamus: The End of the Millennium: Prophecies 1992 to 2001 by V. J. Hewitt & Peter Lorie. Its many forecasts mount rapidly in grandiose implausibility: "1992 George Bush Re-elected... 1993 Cali portion Earthquake; Sound Waves Kills Cancer; America Burns. 1995 A New Hole in the Ozone Layer, Black Holes Explained...." These conclusions have been arrived at by an interpretative method of such gamesome perversity that it would be the envy of many a semiotic deconstructionist. V. J. Hewitt claims Nostradamus himself actually names her "as the first & only person to decode his predictions accurately." Read straight, Nostradamus's cryptic quatrains are banal & unhelpful. Tortuously, Hewitt & Lorie have taken the trouble to render these new prophecies in modern & sometimes pretty podgy French, as if duty-bound to remain faithful to the tongue of their author. In all other respects, however, they have allowed themselves an entirely free hand. "Margaret Thatcher remonte à devenir chef des Conservateurs & sans heirs", i.e. "Without the heirs", In an article in Marx's Neue Rheinische Zeitung (Jan.-Feb. 1849), applauded by Stalin in The Foundations of Leninism (1924), Engels attacked backward races as "ethnic trash" & demanded "its complete extermination or loss of nationality that it would be the envy of many a semiotic deconstructionist. V. J. Hewitt claims Nostradamus himself actually names her "as the first & only person to decode his predictions accurately." Read straight, Nostradamus's cryptic quatrains are banal & unhelpful. Tortuously, Hewitt & Lorie have taken the trouble to render these new prophecies in modern & sometimes pretty podgy French, as if duty-bound to remain faithful to the tongue of their author. In all other respects, however, they have allowed themselves an entirely free hand. "Margaret Thatcher remonte à devenir chef des Conservateurs & sans heirs", i.e. "Without the heirs", In an article in Marx's Neue Rheinische Zeitung (Jan.-Feb. 1849), applauded by Stalin in The Foundations of Leninism (1924), Engels attacked backward races as "ethnic trash" & demanded "its complete extermination or loss of nationality states.... because its existence is worth more than a protest against a great historical revolution." Socialists accepted the genocidal task, & with pride. H. G. Wells in Anticipations (1902) declared: "The world is a world, not a charitable institution & I take it that [the swarms of black, & brown, & dirty-white, & yellow people, who do not come into the new needs of efficiency] will have to go." & Shaw in a preface to On the Rocks (1933), called on scientists to plan the death-camps: "Extermination must be put on a scientific basis..." "if we desire a certain type of civilization & culture we must exterminate the sort of people who do not fit into it." Auschwitz was Marx-inspired & the Soviets used gas before the Nazis did.

David Low, Je Nadde Designe: "one of Max [Beerbohm]'s assets as a caricaturist was that he could not draw, in the academic sense of the word.... his drawings are admired by artists chiefly for their cool cheek in demonstrating how deficiencies in draughtsmanship may be not overcome but ignored."

Giampiero Mughini, A via della Mercede c'era un razzista. A surprising number of those who dominated the post-war cultural scene in Italy had, in the 1930s, been supporters of Fascism (e.g. Alberto Moravia, Vitaliano Brancati). It was never quite clear, & certainly not to Mussolini, what fascism meant. There was even a rich vein of fascist philo-Sovietism; Mussolini himself was fascinated by Lenin. This pluralist atmosphere was helped by the laxity of the authorities, censorship existed, but it was often an irksome rather than oppressive kind. Fascism was a broad church with radical, conservative & socialistic strands. Ira Tebaldi Interlandi's hard-line fascist daily Il Tevere & his literary journal Il Quadrivio, Elio Vittorini, Brancati, Moravia, Eugenio Montale, & Mario Praz all contributed to. The anti-Semitic campaign was in large measure a copycat exercise, the result of Il Duce's servile infatuation with Nazism.

T.L.S., June 21, 1991

What's left of the Left? The foot-dragging conservatism of the Right. Serial warfare, mustard gas & corpse-filled trenches helped make the Left more cautious about modernity. Of its anarchist & green fringes, it has since become openly hostile to industrialism. By contrast, the Right, from Mussolini to Thatcher, has abandoned its former nostalgia & economic circumspection in favour of blind to economic modernization. In the same period, parts of the Left succumbed to the temptations of state power. The liberal image of the Left was damaged badly by its association with the Stalinist regime. The rise of National Communist regimes demonstrated that leftism is not synonymous with selfless internationalism. Severe tensions between these regimes, e.g. the Maoist denunciation of Soviet "revisionism" & the outbreak of war between Indo-China, have served to reinforce the image of the Left as a mirror-image of the its Right-wing opponents.

in a society in which elites circulation with speed.

The Right fail to see that, while the Marxist empire has no clothes, the collapse of communism will not put an end to citizens' struggles for justice, liberty & solidarity. Democracy does not require all individuals to play the role of full-time political animals. Too much democracy can kill off democracy. The wholesale politicization of life, the attempt to transform all human beings into "total citizens", to swallow private life up by the public sphere, is in fact antithetical to democracy. The frenzy of decision-making competent citizen would be a nightmare of interminable meetings, endless negotiations. "Government in the sunshine" & citizens' right to reply. The lust for power knows no political affiliation. It is policy more jealously perverse. It requires constant & external vigilance.

Radical feminism against "gender imbalance" consists of a pressure group of people who want to be given agreeable jobs on the basis of gender. There is a very large number of women (from Mrs Thatcher down) who keep their distance from it.

TLS. July 9, 1991

Jean-Robert Pitt, Gastronomie Française: Histoire et Géographie d'une Passion.

Twenty-four centuries ago, Archestratos, grandson of Pericles, wrote about his passion for rare & varied foods. Of his Gastronomy only fragments survive. The term "gastronomy" was introduced to modern usage early in the 19th century, to help distinguish epicureanism from gluttony. Good enough for Rabelais's gastrolators (stomach-worshippers), gaffing, gorging, foie-mangling would not do for a cultivated elite. Brillat-Savarin: "Animals gorge, man eats, the man of wit alone knows how to eat." Good eating is more than deglutition. Gastronomy reaches beyond the groaning board or the grunting feeder. In France & most of Europe, care & attention devoted to planning & eating fine meals took a long time to refine. Gauls like good eaters & drinkers, but they preferred to carouse & hog. The medieval succession, also lunched between feast & famine, were not much better. Functional differentiation between living, sleeping, cooking & eating-space was late in coming. Furniture

What there was of it, was movable, mobile, pluri-functional. A special dining-room, an 18th-century invention, became generalized in the 19th century, before declining again in our days; but, for a long time, most people ate the way today we picnic, crouching, squatting, preferably near the hearth. When the French say *desservir la table*, they refer to the act of placing a plank on trestles. By the 14th century, when distinct areas for preparing & consuming food started to appear, such dining-tables began to be covered with a cloth; but table-cloth remained the mark of distinction for & might be laid for some diners, not for others. Fare was rough, monotonous for most part, sparse. Colours more vivid than flavours, spoiled meat & contaminated produce favouring thick, pungent sauces, a penchant for sour & bitter seasonings, the slight distinction between sweet & salt. When the great feasted, refinement meant exotication — swan, peacock, heron, crane — species & spectacular display. Medieval feasts were spectacles: table was all set on one side hence all could see the show, venison presented in its original fur & feathers, table service on horseback at some times, concerts & playlets as entremets. But no place-settings. Individual plates were rare, plate non-existent. Most people used comestible plates: trenchers cut out of brown bread that imbibed the sauce or juice of viands laid on them, & could be eaten when the meal had ended, given to the servants, to dogs, or to the poor. By the fourteenth century, trenchers began to be set on wood or metal platters, that would be set on wood or metal platters that would also be called trenchers. Bowls, porringers, cups of copper or of wood, were shared. Like spoons, & courtesy suggested that a knight should share his bowl with his lady-love. Stemmed glasses remained few. In the 15th century, goblet glasses appeared for drinking wine, but many, even at great banquets, continued to drink directly from the jug or pitcher. Spoons, knife & sharp knife-point were generally personal property. Forks, supposed to have entered Europe in the 11th century from Byzantium via Venice, were still not used in certain parts of 17th-century France. Though Henri III, the effete, had scandalized contemporaries by using one to eat, in the 12th century they were still exceptional. But the 16th century did see certain

royal French-like place-setting & serviette become more familiar, & pricking & slicing began to dissociate. The knife's end became rounded so that it served only to cut, leaving the fork to prick & skewer. Slowly, patchily, urbanity was gaining ground. For Renaissance Men, medieval conviviality looks more like promiscuity. Ronsard wrote a poem about salads. Montaigne was fascinated by food & table manners. He hoped remained the chief eating implement, but this was prompted advice not to use it to wipe the nose (at least, not at the table) &, in the de courses, to avoid food that had been touched by others. No more plunging greasy fists in the salt or stew, grabbing a roast, spoiling a bone, licking plate or fingers, even eating too greedily. If mid-16th-century manuals of behaviour instruct readers to keep the serviettes on their knees instead of pinning it on the chest, that is because they still cannot be trusted to spit or splatter themselves while eating, to use the napkin only to wipe the mouth. Italian influences are visible less in cuisine than in the growing success of fruit & vegetables common across the Alps (but rare in France) asparagus, artichokes, oranges, melons & the timid appearance of American imports: turkey, tomatoes & haricot beans. In the 17th century, kitchen stoves & portable ovens appeared to supplement or supplant the hearth. Cooks cooked for longer bent or crouching, not standing up. Then, at mid-century, some significant decades of culinary independence. In 1651, Varenne published le Cuisinier François, Louis XIV was 13 yrs old. It was under his reign that a new cuisine à la française emerged. It was in the 18th century that refinement supplanted sheer abundance & recipes grew complex. Male cooks, allegedly more inventive, thoroughly replaced female ones. It was also in the 18th century that cooking moved out of private kitchens to improve public ones, like second-hand clothes, second-hand food from the tables of the rich had long been sold to hucksters for resale to taverns, cabarets, or directly to the poor. For some time also, owners of public cookshops had allowed clients to sit at their own table (the table d'hôte) to taste their dishes instead of taking them out. The new restaurants or boutons were inspired by the example of English taverns that

even Englishmen of quality liked to take some of their meals. That may be why one of the first restaurants in the rue Richelieu was called "La Grand Taverne de London". The success of the new enterprise was ensured by the Revolution. Grimod de la Reynière declared that Paris held a hundred restaurants for one good kitchen. In Pitte's book as in others, La Reynière figures as the first professional gastronome: wealthy, eccentric & intrepid. He launched the first gastronomic academy & the first gastronomic guide. He is the first modern food critic: supporting the replacement of the traditional service à la française, whereby as many plates as possible were placed on the table at one time, by the service à la russe, in which hot dishes were presented successively as they do now. Until the service à la française was done away with in the mid-19th cent. the passion of Frenchmen had been conditioned to eat soups, roasts, pudding, pâtés & jointed fricassees, & sometimes cold. The daily rations of the great & their households were copious: 6000-7000 calories a day, twice what we consider sufficient today. But simple folk, after the 15th cent., ate far less well: about 4 pounds of meat a year, outside Paris, into the 19th century. Bread, generally eaten stale, if not mouldy, was often soaked in soup. But if the soup's basic ingredients—bread, water, salt—the last was often short or lacking. In the 19th century, the peasant staple was still thick sarrasin pastry porridge, 3 times a day. For meat, "lard, lard, lard", except on feast days. Since rockery was only truly democratized in the 19th century, on most peasant tables, paintings & wooden benches soldiered on. Since Charlemagne, the Paris basin & the Rhône valley have remained centres, magnets, of conspicuous consumption. When Villon affirmed "Il n'est bon bec fors de Paris", he referred to Paris cooks, not Paris foodstuffs. 1964 is the definitive date when French chefs, in the wake of Raymond Oliver, returned from the Tokyo Olympics infatuated with Japanese fare. Nouvelle cuisine would be about simplification, lightness, freshness & inventiveness. Youth & slimness is in fashion. Diets have in vogue. The rich pay richly to avoid rich food—the classic picking of cuisine minceur. Patrick White felt "self-disgust" with his homosexuality. He called his novels "a series of elaborations without aesthetics". He wished Whitman would simply

get down to it with those two conductors of his, instead of hanging about fingering their tickets." The 4th generation of money he had been brought up to the sound of gentlemanly code. His mother's skull digger: "I cannot believe there isn't some lovely girl. Otherwise it just isn't natural." Or it the pen causes Pete did not fervently support Gay Liberation "with its" ~~Gaiety~~ gaiety of carry-on." "I may be homosexual, but I am certainly not gay."

The story of Gerald Bull, the designer of the Iraqi "super gun" who was murdered in Brussels in 1990, has all the ingredients of a thriller. Like Alfred Nobel, Hiram Maxim or the first Krupp, he put his great & restless ambition to make still more deadly weaponry. His own country, Canada, & its NATO allies, however, had no use for his new artillery, & he could not resist the patronage & lucrative fees from pariah countries. Bull became hopelessly dependent on his shady masters, while being watched by their enemies. His early deprivation & loveless upbringing forged his ambition. He was able to build his own company, Space Research, on its own territory, which he called "Camelot", on the border between Canada & the U.S., with strict security on both sides. He sold his guns through circuitous routes to break the international embargo, but he was eventually discovered, exposed on television, & sentenced to jail. He emerged a bitter man. He found support from Communist China, for his most deadly — & demanding — new friend was Saddam Hussein in Iraq. He informed the Israelis, MI6 & the Pentagon about his plans for his supergun. By 1989, he had begun to notice ominous signs — such as that his Brussels apartment had been entered & searched, by agents who seemed deliberately to have left clues of their visits. Friends advised him that the break-ins must be warnings probably from Israeli intelligence — for his track with Iraq. But Bull was now too committed to his Iraqi projects to abandon them. In March 1990, he returned to his flat was shot dead out his front door. The assassins, probably hired by Israeli intelligence, were never identified. When British intercepted parts of the supergun on its way to Iraq, disguised as oil pipeline, they did so only because tipped by Israeli intelligence. The Department of Trade & Industry had prepared to turn a blind eye to exports to Iraq which had

The Bob Woodward school of history, which permits an author to write as though privy to the inner workings of another's mind & to have been directly informed by the person in question. (e.g. "Saddam believed ..."; "Saddam hoped. He had two illusions ..." & Mine's a pfennig. Late comer is jumping on the ~~pseudo-Virginia Woolf~~ psychological bandwagon of history.

Le Mal Potential.

On the Revolutionary Council Iraq's ruling body, was much late at night. Privately weary, Saddam turned to Tariq Aziz, his foreign minister, & asked him what the hour was. The reply came instantly: "Whatever hour you like, Mr President." Nothing is immutable before Saddam; even nature bends to his will. One night while addressing a session of the Iraqi National Assembly in 1982, Saddam noticed one parliamentarian passing a note to another. Assuming they were planning to assassinate him, he pulled out his pistol & ~~in the midst of~~ delivering his speech, shot the two men. Both died on the spot.

Did Christ advocate genocide? Recently to George Watson's arguments, he clearly did & repeatedly called for the extermination of the nations of Canaan. Tom Lehrer on Alma Mahler: "Her lovers were many & varied/ From the day she began her daytime:/ There were the famous ones whom she married,/ And God knows how many between." A voracious femme fatale, the friend & nymphomaniac of Austro-German high culture.

TLS, Aug. 16, 1991

Emrys Jones, the New Oxford Book of 16th-Cent. Verse. The Oxford series of books of English poetry are always a cut above the anthologies. In his 1952 book, Sir Edmund Chambers was obviously happiest when emphasizing the Merrie England of Hey-nonny-nonny, aspect of the century: the rural shepherds, nightingales singing jug-jug, & pastoral dreams to be the better. His prejudice is in favour of the "lyric" (derived from Palgrave). Jones recognizes the ~~coherence~~ entrenchment both of the poet's reliance on temporal circumstance. He includes even a poem about the Devil's (an admirable, unimportant artist (as Marlowe wasn't either). He shows us a Wyatt new to anthologies. The historical Wyatt barely escaped ~~the~~ execution as the Queen's putative lover. "In mourning wise" mourns the death of the 5th Wyatt whom the Queen was supposed to have committed adultery & death that might have been Wyatt's too: "The trickly tears doth fall so from my eyes/ I scarce may write, my paper is so wet." Robert Southwell, in a poem about the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, which transformed her, as he says, from Queen to Saint,

Sex in Popular Fiction

From Mary to Hester, a new following convict: "She had risen to let out the rose". So many anthologies will be influenced by this one that eventually Jones's achievement will seem mostly obvious.

"We are all foreigners here", a writer in America once explained to Evelyn Waugh; (in) America's melting-pot world is mixed with the usual perverse perspicuity. "Our cousins across the Atlantic are, very few of them, Colonel Davis & Daughters of the Revolution, but are Kaplans & Mitnicks, Tranovas, Plonsky, Matsonkaas & Rodriguezes." *

Thanh-Dam Truong, Sex, Money & Morality: Prostitution & Tourism in Southeast Asia. During the war in Indochina, American troops marched to the chant: "This is my rifle; this is my gun; this one is for killing; this other for fun." Nearby, Thailand was targeted as a Rest & Recreation resort for US soldiers, sporting for sexual if not military comfort, could exercise their fleshly weapons. When the US army decamped, the Thai government, under the spell of the World Bank, was persuaded that sex tourism could once more fill the empty brothels & hotel beds. The danger was liaison sprang up between US interests in banking & communication in the region, the international travel industry & Thai sex workers. The sex trade is less a moral issue than it is a specific economy shaped by the relations between travel as an international consumer service, Buddhist notions of merit & karma & female impurity, & the vested interests of local business operators & workers. As a Thai Airline advertisement smirks, "Some say it's our beautiful wide-bodied DC-10s that cause so many heads to turn — We think our beautiful slim-bodied hostesses have a lot to do with it." Multinationals regularly send male employees on package tours to be sexually serviced by women bought as "little slaves who give real Thai warmth." The international politics of Third World debt has turned sex tourism into a cash-for-more-spinning venture — with most of the profits clattering into the coffers of the Multinationals. A racial geography of sex frames affluent men from around the world [illegible] in poor countries, one more compliant & available than ~~[illegible] in gay commercial sex complex~~ Cities

The Nation's prostitution as recent from the embodiment of female bondage. Prostitutes are not universally drawn into degradation, & many show great resilience & ingenuity. In Maryland, the law makes prostitution a crime, while green light is given to entrepreneurs, pimps & managers whose operations are sanctioned as "the personal service society."

The Hippocratic Oath is the most famous, & most misunderstood, of all medical documents. For while it has opposed its doctors revealing medical secrets, having sexual relations with patients, or carrying out abortions & euthanasia, it does accept its other injunctions to refrain from surgery or from charging for medical instruction, & above all believe in the continuing existence of Apollo, Asclepius, Hygieia & Panacea. Out of local legends & hints in the so-called Hippocratic Corpus of medical writings there constructed a series of letters & conversations with the kings of Persia & with Democritus, the laughing philosopher. The claims of Hippocratic medicine to heal mind (or soul) as well as body were finely reflected by George of Paidia: "One door to the healing of the soul".

In the 1950s & 1960s students in Alabama, Georgia, & Mississippi risked their African-American lives to their campuses. Desegregation welcomed new talent, with the support of many university presidents. A new generation of student protesters decried the low numbers of African-American enrollments & residual racism. From the universities' point of view, however, African-American students are a scarce resource, not easily acquired. Recruiters wring their hands, they must compete with their sister-institutions, each of which holds out tempting offers of financial support. The problem is also serious at the faculty level. Every university president wishes African or African-American professors visible on his campus to reinforce its (& his) liberal reputation. Most universities hire new professors by advertisement in professional journals, specifying that there will be no discrimination on grounds of race, gender, or religion. But, especially if this is a job to teach African or African-American sociology, political science, history, or literature, many prospective candidates believe (with good reason) that the job will

It would be interesting to find out how many
Ph.D. theses have been written on acid-free papers (which will not turn the interior
yellow & die Penguins)

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probably go to an African or African-American. Whites may apply if they wish,
but African-Americans will be encouraged, even cajoled, to apply. In most disci-
plines the percentage of African-American PhDs is small; those few who do pur-
sue graduate work are at their peak. We all have feelings; only the
most self-effacing or saintly would decline the flattering attention, the courtship
which accompanies each overture. Even if they have fine jobs already, some Afri-
can-American scholars will seek them out, then tell your present employer
what you have been offered, in its eagerness to keep you. it will offer you in-
centives: a reduced teaching load, extra pay, or salary increase. In borderline
cases, even the offer of honors has entered the bargaining. The more jobs offers
a scholar has from outside, the more leverage he has at home. It is not
illegal to advertise: "White male apply" but apparently it is not illegal
(as though you had done so). No white is clamoring to help (comforting
their own fragile positions on pay day with the financially relaxing plaint to the
newcomer, & have to remind themselves that all this is all being done in the
name of racial equality. Suppose our new African-American colleague were
white & yet richer? Here would be financially numerous forms of "racism". To keep
from our administrators will have to increase further his salary, perks, etc., driv-
ing a disparity which is bad enough already. Most white professors are reluct-
ant to discuss these thoughts, however, lest their own commitment to the "politically
correct" attitude fall under suspicion — not in American academic life today
is more damaging than an imputation of racism. All parties act in bad faith
while declaring that they act only with altruistic motives.
For these young Turks of Radicalism Cité Bleue, the director rather than the con-
servative Notre Dame's "dilettante, branding his sensibility on its every shot like a logo
on a pair of jeans

The final disbandment of the Turkish corps ordered by Pu Yi under the influence
of his tutor the last Emperor's tutor, a Scot, Sir Reginald Johnson, "RJ" was
a long-term goal of the Young Turks from the first. Even in defeat

Popular Ballad: "Fill pot, & pinch belly: one being fat with eating fat
Men, the other lean for want of good women".

"A system among Quakers at all" "has various systems and Druids ten men at
twenty men's salaries for doing the work of one." Despite constant threats from
the "ecstatic", RJ Mahood in 1923 to expel" the cruncher, which their
exodus from an upper balcony in the Forbidden City.
Mr Benson has a rare knack of inspiring passionate friendship. Henry
James was "[one] almost unconditionally to A. C. Benson

TLS 23 Aug. 1991

To see Pascal is to eavesdrop - Pascal's sense of the infinite but insistent
substance of the everyday, his disenchanted relation — the famous sense of two
irreconcilable verities on either side of the Pyrenees — was as acute as his psycho-
ate of animated temporality in Chant. After Jean Mesnard's ed. of his Oeuvres
Complètes is that the Pascal we will have is one which the long succession of
editions has distorted or blurred. The famous "night of the soul" — analogies with
St John of the Cross lie to hand — of Nov. 23, 1654 is not a spiritual conversion
for Pascal. It is not, as Mesnard argues, a conversion totale to the abandoned, exci-
-ted Christ which will follow, negate the metaphysically inspired God of Spinoza
& Leibniz. He is radically Augustinian & Kierkegaardian. It proclaims
proofs — Certitude — Wallet of Ezra Pound which arise from Anselm's ontology.
The Entretien avec Monsieur de Sacy on Epictète et Montaigne is among the
most delightful in philosophic literature. Professing Catholicism, Montaigne remains
pur pyrrhonien.

The wood cut decoration on the ballad was a primary reason for having it reproduced on the dustjacket for this.

We handsome but flirtatious Swede, Count Axel Fersen, was Marie-Antoinette's
lover. The affaire du collier: Cardinal de Rohan, a dissolute former ambassador to
Vienna, sought to overcome the Queen's antipathy by purchasing the most expensive
necklace in Europe for her. Did she perhaps (it would be amusing to encourage
Rohan to believe that) by the necklace would bring about a change in her
attitude towards him? If so, she was beset with her own petard, for the cardinal

In 1944 the American decided to release the Mafia boss Lucky Luciano from prison so that he could help the Allies with their landings in Sicily. The Pope super-penitent, the Camorra who sings in a falsetto for doubtful dilettantes, devout politicians, crooked jewels & power-crazy secret-service men are all embroiled in criminal conspiracies 'the inventory of tradition'.

Moreover more subtly manipulated by the "intermediaries" of the world of the Mexicans & his mockery of a true Habsburg, Marie-Antoinette wanted to see rebellion put down by force TLS, Sept 6, 1991

Flaubert. Correspondence, III, ed. Jean Bruneau. As Claude Gabriel puts it, Autrecky has to start writing about Flaubert to turn into flames his 3,000 (!) 4) runs from Jan. 1859 to Dec. 1868. His social success in Paris increases: the Magny dinners begin, Princess Mathilde invites him, he receives the Légion d'honneur. His head is visibly turned. His post-publication fiascos with Sainte-Beuve & Feydeau alas Salammbô scarcely disregarded the dictum Faire et se taire. "L'empoisonnement de la Bovary m'avait fait dégueuler dans mon pot de chambre. L'affaire de Carthage me prend les entrailles dans les bras." Writing consciously taking out extraneous words ("A fois fois répété dans même phrase — Merde!") When restrictions over Salammbô begin, the novelist is fully aware of his power & marketability. Even so, first & main demand of a censor in the annals of authorial vanity & paranoia: Who has Léon Molet on no account be permitted to read his manuscript. "Un critique vous explore, mais il n'a pas le droit de vous apprécier." Léon's subsequent published opinion was "de ne rien avoir jamais dit d'un mot de bon sens." Now Léon has the audacity to expect the right to read Salammbô. "L'idée de la taille de Léon foutant ses pattes sur mes pages me révolte plus que je ne puis dire. Il m'importe fort peu ce qu'il pense. C'est comme si on me proposait de lui faire des compliments." Though he says he wants 20,000 francs for the novel, he insists on first finding out what Léon will pay. Right to the very preposterous, Léon Bloy, when Flaubert accepts rather than humiliations, offers appreciation: "Votre hommage, Merde, me va comme un archimède. Redemption, the inexplicable imbecility of history: the playfully attributed made-up quotes that we admire: so L'Esprit des lois is given the credit for "la grande tirade sur le spectacle du plaisir des autres." L'histoire retenue des 2 mots "Histoire de l'esprit humain, histoire de la sottise humaine." He foresees the death of Islam,

* of Freud: "Writing consists in allowing a fluid to flow out from a tube upon a piece of white paper" (in Eric Fischl)

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the division of France into two like Belgium, & the impossibility of war with Prussia: "Quand il faut la guerre, avec qui? Avec la Prusse? La Prusse n'est pas si fête". His last is from 1868. With Ernest Feydeau he is the "rabbish Cockswain" dreaming of depilated Crusts beneath an eastern sky; with Amélie Bosquet the medieval gallant, shy as far but not in word anyway further ("Mille pardons où vous voudrez"); with Princess Mathilde the humble courtier & gift-bearer (one wonders what she would have made of the turnip seeds); with Jules Duplan, Bixio & general factotum, he is the impatient, benignly employer, occasionally dispensing robust consolation ("Et toi, mon pauvre vieux bougre, tu m'as l'air joliment saumisé par la vie"); with George Sand the affectionate confrère, keen to play down any reputation for vice; with the Goncourts ("Je serre vos quatre mains" a slightly edgier confrère). These constant changes of register sometimes led to comical repetitions. Summarizing his difficulties with L'Education sentimentale to Duplan in April 1863, he writes: "Je me casse en vain ma pauvre cervelle". For Caroline's benefit he adapts the image: "Jamais je n'ai enfoncé tête sur ma pauvre cervelle". By 1866, still on the same book, he sanitizes the phrases completely for George Sand: "Vous ne savez pas, vous ne pouvez pas savoir ce que c'est de rester toute une journée la tête dans les deux mains à présenter la même tête pour un mot." He sends his niece Caroline a letter, telling her plainly that "j'aimerais mieux la voir épouser un épicier millionnaire qu'un grand homme indigent"; later he says, to Bachi in Rouen from Paris. He confesses complacently to Duplan of the crisis: "Tout s'est arrangé à votre gré heureusement". The marriage was not a success, & Caroline's subsequent life followed the same pattern twice more. She fell in love, once more she married, but the two conditions never coincided. Her first should be Flaubert? Mlle de Lespinasse de Chantepie once complained that those who loved her had done her more harm than those she later hated, & this seems to have been Caroline's case. Flaubert makes uneasy allusions about her future marriage & the part he'll play: "Demain jeudi Madame donne une grande fête de grand monde. Aurai-je seulement le temps de lire les baisers du pauvre oncle?" Fausten en croisé "(Feydeau, 1859) becomes "C'est là (l'encrier) le vrai type des gens de lettres" (Feydeau, 1859) becomes "Barons d'encre. Ça grise mieux que le vin" (Feydeau, 1864)

becomes "L'encre est un vin noir, plongeons-nous dans nos rêves, puisque la vie est si atroce!" (Amélie Bosquet 1861) becomes "Grisons-nous avec de l'encre, puisque le nectar des dieux nous manque" (Bosquet 1861). Ironic fixation of Gautier's hyperbolic lecher & long correspondence. Flaubert mocks Michelet in a letter to Sand, but not long after he uses the historian's "mon cher Maître". When Faguet denounces Salammbô & also calls it "la fille naturelle des Misérables" we can better imagine Flaubert's double wrath by having read his earlier private bashing of Hugo's book to Louise Roger des Genettes. Finally, the irony must can produce a specimen: Flaubert explains to Sainte-Beuve that the approach to antiquity in Salammbô is diametrically opposed to Chateaubriand's method: a few months later Maurice Schlesinger innocently congratulates Flaubert on the novel—"Ma chère raison de le comparer à Chateaubriand." And after reading Flaubert's slightly patronizing letter to Caroline of the Grand monde, Weiss an act of editorial justice when Bonnetain helps us get a line on the fiasco the novelist normally cast as he juxtaposed his princesse. In 1867, after a ball at the Tuileries Palace he clearly regarded as a social peak, Flaubert thanks the Princesse Mathilde: "Le bal de Tuileries reste dans mon souvenir comme une claire féerique, comme un rêve." Bruneau dixit & the wicked wicked etymologie fils & comte Primoli: "Ne disait-on pas Mme Berry impersonnée par son premier bal?" "It's more than just a case of individual owners harbouring their prepossessions, and as Flaubert's unpublished letters may be more as valuable as a published one." All Flaubert's letters to his publisher Michel Lévy—all 94 of them—are reproduced here only by the date & the first line of the letter. Bruneau: "Je n'ai pas obtenu l'autorisation de reproduire ces lettres".

Richard Holroyd, Bernard Shaw, vol. III. He left a map. His enormous correspondence (he loved to write 5,000 words a day) was deposited (regularly) intact & inaccessible in the British Museum, "where all the world's biographers can find it & do their worst or their best." Writers can't control their posterity: Balzac destroyed their papers, or had friends to burn their letters. But others received that their character & reputations & lives would be protection enough. Charlotte's myst.

Mysterious intimacy with T. E. Lawrence (the clumpy, Irish, more than Middle-aged
& with a face "like a muffin"), he so beautifully as the young Peter O'Toole) Shaw's
Bossy-boring, adoring & obsequiously underpaid Secretary Blanche Patch ("Mrs Cop's
Book" & unsolicited letter-writer) wanted to become the second Mrs Shaw. Shaw's
infatuation with totalitarianism in old age, & bloody old age, it was strong men who
primarily captivated Shaw. The old man's admiration was occasionally disingenuous for the
recipient. Lawrence died on a powerful Motorcycle bought for him by Shaw. He was the
sharpest & most astute of Weakminded in British politicians. But his critical faculties
dissolved entirely in the presence of dictators like Hitler & Mussolini. He went well beyond
applause in Mosley Oswald Mosley's career in the 1920s, seeing in him a type of his own
Superman. He actually wrote one of Mosley's speeches in 1924. In the early 1930s, Shaw
saw Mosley as Britain's Mussolini, & was not displeased by the prospect of his disciple's
becoming "Dictator of this Country." He remained loyal to his protégé in his wrongful
imprisonment. He despaired that was it he was "a Hollywood product." In his article
"Uncommon Sense about the War" (published with great controversy in the New Statesman
in 1939) he advised "leave Germany to itself & there will soon be a reaction against Hitler."
In a letter to Beatrice Webb he objects "the right of states to make eugenic experiments by
weeding out any strains that they think undesirable." He opposed the Nuremberg Jewish
tribunals: "I should let them loose as nobodies — quite harmless & negligible". He
could not bring himself to believe in the German concentration camps." He was if
anything softer for Communist Stalin was than Fascists. Lenin, he declared after the
First World War, "is the only international statesman in Europe." On the success of
the Bolsheviks, Shaw promptly pronounced himself "an assisted communist." He sent
Lenin a copy of Back to Methuselah. As Beatrice Webb shrewdly noted: "What
Shaw really admires — is the forceful activities of the Communist Party." He found
Union was comically adept at swindling that best Lenin had called "useful idiots". He
excelled Shaw in idiocy. He saw Stalin's victory as "a triumph of common sense":
"I wished we had forced Labour in England, in which case we would not have 2,000,
000 unemployed". He declared that he was looking forward to a good performance of "the
Chimes of the Tsar Kremlin". He had an audience with Stalin, whom he discovered to be a

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gentleman & to be possessed upon" irrepressible humour. Stalin lectured his British guests with great emotion on the ing iniquity of corporal punishment in British schools. He only to Shaw later about Moscow was the performance of the Brecht-Weill Threepenny Opera ("an amazing & disgusting perversion of the Beggar's Opera"). He left the Soviet Union, Molly converted to the religion of communism — a creed he passed on to the Webbs & countless thousands of Fabians. Communism would "have mankind from complete anarchy & ruin". If he was 18, he would settle in Moscow tomorrow. "Our question is not whether to kill or not to kill, but how to select the right people to kill." He defended the Russian invasion of Finland on the similar to George Bernard Hall "Ireland is the British Finland." In the 1940s Shaw was still formally proposing Stalin for the Nobel Peace Prize. He advised British & German troops to shoot their officers & go home. Blunt comes through unequivocally in Back to Methuselah as Shaw's disgust with sex, & his yearning for celebrate from its physical embarrassments. Eve, informed of "the facts of life" by the serpent, responds as the stage directions tell us with an "expression of overwhelming disgust". Charlotte told T. E Lawrence that "Harry is not normal." Perhaps to be like she had never experienced "dying" (Shaw's favourite metaphor for the sexual act). Sex may have been tolerable but sleep jealousy seems to have come quite naturally to Charlotte, who spoiled her elegant husband & Molly Tone Kino (an American actress 50 years Shaw's junior) with expensive ~~snack~~ muscatel grapes) as they frolicked on the Italian beach. She was not, however, on guard during the high point of the affair, when, by his own Molly gave what she called "my body & my time & my heart" peace to Shaw. "Shaw may have come near to celebrating his 71st birthday after [illegible] as he had celebrated his 24th" (i.e. when he lost his virginity to Jenny Patterson). It was the old man's last affair, apart from a shady encounter [illegible] Margaret Dreier in his eighties. He was, now Wells the last of the great Victorian amateurs, who, as T. S. Eliot complained, came up with "home-made" religions. He was crippled, disabled by a reluctance timidity at the crucial points where theory & practice meet. Sex was clearly one of the [illegible] Shaw was asked to use his celebrity by intervening for political prisoners

I'd like to answer Q in Sept. 13 "Nicolas Poussin" 1972 monograph has authentic short book on every painting that will convince anyone who studies it freely.

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he always declined, with unconvincing excuses. Pound called him "a miserable coward" who had been prepared to support Ulysses.

Talleyrand Shattenbrand suspected that Talleyrand owed his success to being "a 19th century Pericles's idea of an 18th-cent. grand seigneur. I came, I saw, I lied enough. Edward Shevardnadze has ended up as a sort of the wrong side of a very intricate end-game. Ray Jenkins is widely regarded as the best P.M. we never had. When Napoleon escaped from Elba, Jane Austen was writing the final chapters of Emma. Shelley had just discovered his boyhood love of Mary Godwin. Turner was painting "Regulus" Rossini was writing The Barber of Seville & Beethoven his piano sonata Opus 101, Humphry Davy was working on the miners' safety lamp, & Byron was saying that he was bored.

Shakespeare, Inc. has become a large multinational enterprise, providing employment for tens of thousands. The Empress of Japan graduated in English. The Forth Committee of Lit-Crit. Jobbledy-good Rose was an embarrassment & a bore. I hear Shylock described as the embodiment of an Aristotelian response to hegemony. The recent finding of a new Will accidentally deepens, & the festival of the Shakespeare Library pierced over for purposes of cards & amusement by academics has not always helped.

There is also the British Centre for Translation (found in 1989). The Centre was the idea of W.G. Sebald, a professor of German at the University of East Anglia, who combines an Austrian post-Holocaust Catholic's eminence grise. He claims to have been inspired by the European Übersetzer Kollegium in Straelen, where 20 translators have access to 20 word-processors & a vast array of dictionaries & encyclopedias and work in spacious, comfortable study-bedrooms. The infant British Centre, currently housed by the Arts Council, the Council of Europe & the European Commission & watched over benignly by the University, though its conference & sports complex are yet to be built.

George Watson writes: "In 1933-4 Hitler used Hermann Rauschning that he had a good deal from Marxism & that the whole of National Socialism is based on it." Rauschning's book has been conclusively demonstrated to be a forgery by Wolfgang Hänel ("Hermann

Sir Leslie Stone died to job Lacaita the post of the librarian. Mr Cox, London Library's "sentinel & encyclopedia" for some 70 yrs, was no respecter & person. "Strange that's become of those two girls", he remarked. Lord Francis Hervey & Mrs Jane Wolff. "Such a true home they had Sir Leslie was President. But of course they weren't baptized."

Rauschnings 'Gespräche mit Hitler' — Eine Geschichtsfälschung", Zeitgeschichtliche Forschungsstelle, Ingolstadt, 1985). ~~Der~~ Der Spiegel (no 37, 1985 pp. 92-5) brings the news to a wider audience.

LS Sept. 13, 1991

The most influential of the 19th-cent. systematizers, Darwin shunned public life. Indeed, he almost shunned life itself, keeping out of sight. Darwin the revolutionary is Hart Crane's figure at the far corner of the English garden. He is much harder to read not to admire. The lawn to keep praise on him, or to get a signed copy of one of his books. Indeed, he cannot quite work out how you have entered his forbidden citadel. Perhaps his beloved servant has let him down again. Marx, Engels & the almost unread Oswald Spengler claimed that Darwin's theory is a naturalistic version of political economy, specifically an economic theory of the early Victorian period, above all, that of Malthus. For those who see him as a great natural historian, the political reading is an insult, a form of slur. For students of Darwin, the attempt to divide the political economy out of the theory is a deliberate attempt to make a contestable theory irrefutable. He was wealthy & very careful with his money. Alone of that Alfred Russel Wallace dared to take their lead encouraged by a generation of admirers, notably Joseph Hooker. He published the Origin in 1859, after Darwin had his will. Here there is no doubt. Nature is portrayed as a competitive, free-market economy, a "Nature for the middle classes."

The Lawrences were hard up but not impoverished. The 4 of their children clawed their way out of the working class. "The Mums of Chrysanthemum", Ford Madox Ford wrote in his ode on the top of a bus. Had "every novel that the English novel can have... But you've got GENIUS." Hardy was "too much Water-Jelly"; Lawrence himself "Kotin" of Gertrude Stein & "too much Gerhardie"; While Shaw was a "Jacob" & "Jesse" just "Heaps of Fragments of Fractatious mad Sarcasm". The would-be dirty dons: By (nature & gifts) a fox, he was driven by circumstances trying to be a hedge-hog.

T.L.S. Nov. 1. 1991

Columbus himself, as a propagandist for his own achievements, was a consummate artist. He has been turned into a converted Jew, on circumstantial evidence which Kirkpatrick Sale dismisses as worth him a conviction — Salvador Madariaga, who turns him into a Catalan Jew, argued that his love of God proved his Jewishness. Patriotic Spanish scholars, uncomfortable with the notion that Columbus was not Spanish, have invented a Castilian, a Catalan, a Majorcan a Galician and an Ibizan Columbus. Columbus was a Genoese. He said so himself. He learned his navigational skills working with Genoese family businesses. Into the Jewish community, the Genoese stuck together in foreign parts. The declared intention of Columbus, as he set sail on August 3, 1492, was to reach the Indies, the land of the Great Khan, so interestingly described by Marco Polo. He was an autodidact, an unsystematic reader. His respectable cartographer was a flat-earth man. Like the ancients, late 15th century intellectuals believed that the earth was a perfect sphere. The Columbus industry has flourished on reconstructing the Admiral's first voyage. None of his four voyages has come down to us. The journal of the First Voyage is a copy of a copy of the original log by Las Casas. Did Las Casas copy correctly without faulty orthography (transposition) or haplography (eye-skip)? Did he censor the Admiral in "cardinal sin" of seeking to reconstruct the author's "true intention"? Lacking the vocabulary to describe exotic birds & trees, Columbus seems to have lacked interest in botanical nature as such. "He knew that our Lord had caused the ships to run aground so that he might establish a settlement." There is no evidence that he intended on the first voyage to become the first colonizer of the New World. He was a disastrous governor of his colony on the Hispaniola. Rather than devout & industrious Pilgrim Fathers, the colonists turned out to be idle adventurers hunting down Indians. Though Columbus was perfectly prepared to make Hispaniola profitable by exporting its inhabitants as slaves, Mexico & Central America do not fit his & his Monarch's beliefs that conquest was only legitimized by conversion of the natives. The Admiral appealed for the despatch of friars "better to perform the Christians than give it to Indians". The colonists, obeying under the rule of an imported foreigner

for Ferdinand & Isabella of Spanish Court. In Oct. 1500, Columbus was sent home in chains. It was characteristic of his paranoiac self-image as a persecuted man of God that he refused to take them off. His mind tottering, he took refuge on the sea. On his third voyage he reached the coast of Venezuela. ~~The New World~~ Driven by terrible storms to Jamaica, he mistook this obsession that he had discovered Asia, not a new continent. The New World gracefully yielded her virginity to the conquering Castilians. It is a story of rape & genocide. Columbus's attitude to the Indians was ambivalent & changed over time.

Even in the phone book appeared a "Mrs Sonia Orwell", as if there were a "Mme Anatole France" & perhaps a "Mrs John le Carré." She was married, of course, as Mrs Blair, subsequently Pitt-Rivers. The hospital staff remembered that she could not be found. Ann Dunn says she was at a night-club in his company, other old friends say that she was with a lover.

TLS, Dec. 20, 1991

Witold Rybczynski, Waiting for the Weekend - The book is about the way free time seeped into general experience & became no longer a privilege of the few but a commonplace of the many. "Time free from, or time free for?" Mr R., like the dictionary, assumes that free time means leisure. Both, as the Latin licere suggests we are permitted to spend as we please. It follows that free time is not as unbounded as it may sound, but part of a system, within which it is designed & permitted to play a part. Mr R. focuses on the week, specifically on the two-day weekend. "How the weekend became the chief temporal institution of the modern age." Days, weeks or months, the week is an artificial, man-made measure that bears no relation to sun or moon or stars. Most societies have responded to the need to subdivide large slabs of time into intervals shorter than the lunar month. Egyptians & Athenians used decads, as the French tried to do between 1792 & 1806, & the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. But Babylonians chose seven as a magical number, & astrology suggested a planetary week of 7 days, each under the influence of one of the 7 planets. So the Jews observed the Sabbath on the 7th day. French revolutionaries failed

to impose décades, Sabbatarians failed to impose 7-day working weeks with a 5th day off, or 6-day weeks with the 6th day off. Even in the 16th Century, & then mostly in a Protestant lands, the Sunday was restrictive, with church attendance & first trade, then entertainment, banned. By the 19th cent., holy days had turned into holidays, & week ends into weekends. In 1985, still, 39% the U.S. continued to restrict Sunday activities ranging from bingo, billiards & barbering, to digging oysters. Of course, Sunday the rest, the only day when—at least for some—work was suspended. Like North Indians or 4th/cent. Romans, the pre-Reformation English enjoyed more than 200 non-working days a year, the pre-Revolutionary French about 180. But, as recreations gradually drifted away at last, Sunday & its attentions became increasingly crucial. The "greatest of small holidays", Saint Monday: the informal but increasingly ritual prolongation of Sunday, either to dream or to sober up. In industrial Middle Gate, in Disraeli's *Sybil*, "on the Monday & Tuesday the whole population is drunk". Saint Monday flourished first among artisans, affecting manufactories only later. It flourished itself in industrially backward France, a country of small workshops. After 1842 the Early Closing Association struggled for shorter working hours. When Christian reformers urged that one o'clock closing on Saturdays would encourage Sunday worship, factory owners moved only to trade a Saturday half-holiday in return for more regular attendance. By 1870, English working people enjoyed what others envied & did not get until after the First World War: *la semaine anglaise*. Even the Continent, by 1883, Paul Lafargue, Marx's son-in-law, was proclaiming the right to idleness. His call was premature and prophetic. The wonderful institution of the *pont*, or bridge, linked holidays that fell on Thursday or Tuesday to Saturday & Sunday, creating truly long weekends. In 1980, when formal paid vacations were five weeks a year, over 56% of the French & over 85% of Parisians went on holiday at once. Thus did the pushy weekend nibble at the week, & shorter working hours lighten the workers' workload. The concomitant of leisure without the commercialization that brought more to more, without passivity, without the sort of business promotion that encourages the (games) sports of little cricket (& sports like football & cycling) popular leisure scored decisive & sparse. Games seem to sit well with noble sloth. How idle is idleness?

Work free time is vested in activities even more strenuous than work time: home repairs, gardening, shopping, athletics, etc. Though not required to work on holidays, many men & women are not required not to work. Hence 60 days of official work simply permit more unofficial work, for pay or not for pay. Sport becomes a sort of work, play a sort of labour. The leisure by the play-pen replaces the tedium of the work-place. Malinowski tells us, regard Saturday & Sunday as unfortunate days. Anyone who has had to tackle the week's chores & correspondence over the weekend may agree, as might Parisians ruled by the pastime of the semaine anglaise. Repelled by play. Rather by alternative routines that colonize what ought to be free time & empty it of freedom. "The freedom to do something" is become "the obligation to do something". Identities that used to rest in work now draw their sustenance from non-work work. The Japanese are said to prefer long hours in the workplace to cramped leisure in noisy, inconvenient homes. On the eve of the second World War, the French Government was considering the limitation of the servants' working hours to 45 a week. An Under-Secretary of State for Leisure (Léonie Action française), perhaps with reference to Paul Lafargue, dubbed Ministre de la paresse. Italian Fascists limited the length of work day as early as 1923, introducing the 5-day week in 1935 & encouraging after-work activities, sporting & cultural — the dopo-lavoro — that inspired Salazar & Hitler well before bourgeois democracies (reluctantly) followed. The Nazis went one better; even the Volkswagen, known as the KdF (Kraft durch Freude) car, was developed in the first place as an inexpensive automobile for the working man, in times when driving was still a luxury reserved for the better-off. Like other sources of images & sounds, television fills time that is free from employ. Time that is fallow, barren, unprofitable, unpleasant remains to be explored. A history of boredom would have much to tell.

Paul Fussell, BAD, or the Dumbing of America. Life in the country Professor Fussell has lived in disgusting, stupid, & vicious; its people, ugly, vulgar & vile. The place is a cesspool of ignorance. Next to America, hell has to be considered, energetically, the upward mobility. Probably best not to have Fussell as a house guest. But, if you must, don't whatever

You'd pick him up at an American airport (he despises everything about American airlines & aeroplanes) ... and — oops — don't refer to your house or your apartment as your "home" (he is death on what he considers sappy euphemisms). "Bad" Fussell begins by telling us is "something no one ever chose unfortunate to have a typographical error in the first sentence of a book about bloody goods & things. I did not say 'good'; whereas BAD is "something phony, clumsy, joyless, untalented, inept, or boring that many Americans can be persuaded is genuine, graceful, bright, or fascinating." "Americans mean contributions to the world is BAD. The great unwashed is essentially American." What Paul Fussell can't bear turns out to be the Middle Class. "... saying things like 'Have a nice day' causes my stomach to turn. It's my enemy. More than the people in the Kremlin ...." One important difference, of course, is that Mr. U.S. Some can write a good book like BAD & laugh all the way to the bank, while to do so at the time that Fussell said this would be to have landed Mr. Solzhenitsyn in the Lubyanka. Fussell himself is middle class, not pleased with his antecedents. The objects of his attack throughout his book entail a possible conflict of self-interest. He attacks both wealthy & low-status & large state American universities, for example, but not Harvard, Princeton, & Stanford. He savages junky newspapers, but the New York Times, which has its own flagrant stylistic characteristics by its false air of disinterestedness, is never mentioned. Selective anger of this kind is not imperative, especially for a man perhaps too wild an intellectual machine gun. BAD is an act of vengeance, nothing. Fussell, in his books, is a downward-looking snob, chiefly interested in putting as much space as possible between the class from which he derives in Class (published in Britain as Caste Marks), he clearly puts himself in what he there calls the "X category" which is reserved for those people of talent & high intelligence who are able to escape social class altogether. "X category is a sort of unmoneyed aristocracy"

In Egerton Colmer's The Study of English Literature (1871) chooses to take its place at the head of a line of English Studies classics — Richards's Practical Criticism, Leavis's Education & the University & Terry Eagleton's Literary Theory, an initiator of the Continuing debate about the nature, scope & purpose of English studies, is exorcising Oxford & Cambridge for favouring philological studies at the expense of literary ones.

Kenyon on the leg: "Could you, like a good chap, make it up to me in cigars?" Westheade

Philosophy for Beginners, by Richard Osborne & illustrated by Ralph Edney

An entertaining & generally responsible cartoon history of philosophy, 182 pp.

& a generous parody of an upper-class adventure story by H. F. Ellis. The diary of Ventnor an incompetent assistant master at Dingbrook Prep School.

Phyllis Grosskurth describes Ernest Jones as "an unattractive little man with his fervent face pressed longingly against the glass" of Freud's inner circle. Following the scandal which ended Jones's medical career in Canada, Freud sent him for treatment with Ferenczi. He himself analysed Jones's mistress, Loe Kann, & the result was that she left Jones for another man. Freud & Ferenczi then added insult to injury by attending the couple's wedding. Jones revenged by wooing Freud's daughter, Anna, to which Freud gamely put a stop. Freud early supported the Vienna-based, non-medical psychoanalyst Reik in his wrangles with Jones.

In the archetypal Punch article, verbosity masquerades as levity. Nobody goes to jail, & nobody dribbles away the last on to the fudge. The Punch tone is destroyed for or at least echoed by the after-dinner speech at the golf club. Even the normally clean American wit of Alice Duer Miller, that Galsworthy of the couch, The Diary of a Nobody Lady Isabella Holdsworth, A. J. Wentworth & Bob all that we all first published in Punch, no bad score for any journal.

TLS, Dec. 27, 1991

From John Aubrey's Brief Lives, we derive Ben Jonson's lowering post-drawn of the two fluent actor-dramatist, Wm. Shakespeare: "2 years he had blotted out a thousand." Johnson, in turn, was put down by Aubrey, as a poor actor, a drunkard & the murderer of Christopher Marlowe. His salacious & crudely credulous anecdotes about the Elizabethan luminaries Perkin on his pen he takes in & out of the company of his distinguished subjects, sometimes with comic physicality. When he limns himself alongside the diminutive Milton: "He was scarce so tall as I am. Quaere, quot feet I am high: resp. 5 middle stature." David Tyldesley Wright, John Aubrey Shows him, after the Great Fire of London, poking about the cinders around St Paul's. He discovered Wm Herbert, Shakespeare's patron, rotten & stinking; Bishop Braybrooke stiff & uncorrupted; Dean Colet's body pickled "like boyled Brawne". His blend of credulous enthusiasm & insatiable curiosity. He twice nearly ruined himself, both emotionally & financially, in attempts at matrimony. He seems to have been a kind of idiot savant — Anthony à Wood's less polite phrase was "a maggoty headed fellow", teeming with heaps of knowledge & misinformation.

We have been brushing off the last specks of Marxism, unless the baby can be snatched from the bathwater
There are more people employed in the Aids bureaucracy than there are Aids sufferers.

London Review of Books, 8 Oct. 1992

The men who carried out the killings emerge from the authors' pocket trays or dope sheets as regular GI Joes — by no means problem soldiers. Though Lieutenant William "Rusty" Calley was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour for his part in the My Lai massacre, he was released from jail after only 3 days on the instructions of President Nixon. He spent 3½ yrs under house arrest before being put on parole. He has become a jeweller. His comrade Varnado Simpson, who went to Vietnam a 19-yr-old, perpetrated 25 of the killings at My Lai. He didn't just despatch his victims: he also scalped them, & removed their ears. & hands. In 1977, his 10-year-old son died when a gun went off accidentally at home in Jackson, Mississippi. Simpson believed that he was being punished. He took to boarding the windows & keeping the drapes drawn. He has attempted suicide three times.

When Kafka read the opening chapter of The Trial to friends in 1915 both he & they roared with laughter, but we are loaded with so much later knowledge that the idea of being arrested for no reason doesn't raise a smile. And in 50 years' time when the Soviet Union is distant history Animal Farm is likely to survive without more exact reference than a fable about social relations, idealism spoiled (& of course as a charming fairy tale), so the Pilgrim's Progress is now no more than a piece of literature.

Niels Bohr TLS Jan. 24, 1992

The room was dumb when the old man (Niels in 1953 & he was 68) got up to speak. He spoke very slowly. Gradually he sank into inaudibility & stood there in the tense silence while the Benders crept from behind their screens to take away the dirty plates. But he raised his finger — "Boom going more" — & they hesitated while he painfully elaborated his afterthought. Bohr probed to build an intellectual structure from them mechanics that could withstand the assaults of the giant Einstein. The gist the message was even before the first atom-bomb fell. By sharing information with the Russians was the key to a stable settlement, would have taken an elegant man. A meeting with Roosevelt was friendly but inconclusive, with Churchill it was calamitous — "Bohr ought to be confined or at any rate made to see that he is very near the edge of mortal crimes."

If we leave aside his dramatic wartime escape from Denmark was successful & Bohr is not on the trail of an idea, no theater was given. When Schrödinger was driven

& Encounter, Jan. 1978. P. 94: Dewey was an inspective class room leader. In his lecture hall at Columbia 400 students would be huddled together on the front row, while across the way Hilgard's exposing Dewey's ideas, attracted an audience of 4 to 500. At a meeting of the American Philosophical Association Dewey sat on the platform in front of a large "No Smoking" sign, started puffing on a cigarette. Others followed suit. Now quite dared to point to the sign.

to the sickbed, it was Margrette Eaton who provided the human comfort, while Nicholas Continued the rabble at his bedside. Out of the great crisis of Occupation materialism emerged what has come to be known as the Copenhagen doctrine

The Cambridge History of Persia, vol. 7. Two members of the original editorial board ~~are dead~~ Harold Bailey & Mr Peter Avery, have stayed the course. Ronald Fernie: "Gibbon took the trump card & the joker in the Paldhri land: a mixed blessing."

26 John Dewey was a medium-sized male factor of our century, whose intellectual specialty—& he lived to the age of 92—was sapping the strength of democracy. He was not among the evil elite who imposed deadly anti-democratic experiments. He was on the contrary a partisan of democracy & of nothing but democracy. In endless volumes written in prose "as deep as a cathedral aisle" (Louis Mumford) he reiterated his claim, not that democracy was good, or that even good, if not goodness itself, was democracy. He did his best to make democracy sacred. Even bread & wine do not taste good unless they are democratic. The consequence is not merely democratized commodities as Coca-Cola & Chewing-gum but self-satisfaction with such things, including their cosmic cultural extensions. The only sensible political stand Dewey ever took, which was to oppose (with great prompting from Sidney Hook) the influence of Communists among American writers from 1939 until his death in 1952. His lengthy & vigorous old age only made him notably out of date. Neo-existentialism & analytical philosophy came to the fore after the Second World War. Not long ago, Richard Rorty named him with Wittgenstein & Heidegger as the 3 most important philosophers of our century because they led us away from reliance on "foundational" philosophy, or from philosophy traditionally conceived. Heidegger was a radical historicist & Dewey a not-so-radical one. Not-so-radical historicism lives on the remnants of Hegel, who supposed that history was the actualization of human reason. Heidegger, with lots of help from Nietzsche, showed that history was a catalogue of reasons, that man was historical by rather than a rational animal. Dewey was enabled by the shift to dodge pragmatism to cheer for democracy. Unless Heidegger, the closet thinker by far, flirted with the Nazis. Pragmatism is either a philosophy or in common

parlance a non-philosophy, an obliviousness or resistance to philosophy. Moreover, Americans are not pragmatists. Rorty is perhaps the most philosophical, thought-driven figure ever, intended as a universal example, & the fact that Americans do not read books does not prevent books from determining their lives. Tocqueville, in claiming that Americans were all Cartesians who had never read Descartes, avoids the mistake of concluding that they always were pragmatists, self-confidently careless of philosophy. Dewey puts a vague notion of growth. "Growth" implies nature (or is taken) in the sense of regular rather than violent motion. He is undisturbed the fear (or the Nietzschean desire) that individuals will exploit one another instead of growing together in mutual benefit. In truth, democracy has a problem: it is good for the growth of the ordinary man, not so good for that of the extraordinary man. But in Dewey's educational writings, progress in American schools today, the problem is never faced squarely. Dewey's democracy is a self-proud version of Heidegger's "average everydayness."

TLS, Jan. 31, 1992

G. R. Elton, Return to Essentials. Sir Geoffrey's hit-list among theorists is a long one. One large group are all Frenchmen. He never misses a chance for a gibe at "characteristically charismatic Frenchmen." Them he holds responsible for the Annales School. He describes German philosophy & French esprit as a "dangerous cocktail," since "the absurd always sounds better in French." He describes theories as "the intellectual equivalent of crack." It talks a little wildly, of "the unconscious radiation that has come from the forehead of Derrida & [illegible] Foucault." His final word of advice is that it is "the historians' job to tell the social scientists to shut up!" Another group of enemies are the feminists. He reserves his greatest scorn for scholars who are both female & theorists. Which leads him to rage at "the reasonably fanatic Jean Elshtain Scott who manages to marry deconstructionism with Marxism, which is spiking vodka with LSD." It was Hayden White who several years ago floated the idea that fact & fiction are indistinguishable one from the other. Sir Geoffrey must recoil in horror from the work title of Natalie Davis's most recent book: Fiction in the Archives. He would do well to read Peter Novick's That Noble Dream which carefully analyses the fallacies of the [illegible] that history can be a purely objective science.

One may feel, at the end of the book, that one has been introduced to everybody at a large party, but in too many cases only the introduction lingers.
George Eliot, Jakes - declined John Morley's invitation to do the volume on Shakespeare in the English Men of Letters series.

Before September 1939, emigration rather than the extermination of German Jewry was the declared Nazi policy objective. The Nazis still hoped for an agreed "international" solution, which would render Germany "free of Jews", improve their foreign exchange situation & finance their rearmament.

Despite Melvyn Bragg's position as tsar of the arts, many critics have nerved themselves up to open derision. David Cronenberg, a Canadian, is the director of such films as Shivers (in which a doctor breeds a parasite, "actually a sexually transmitted fang, which, having entered the body, acts as an aphrodisiac, thereby ensuring that it continues to spread to other bodies"), Rabid (after emergency surgery, a woman comes round to find that "the only food she can digest is blood, which she extracts from her victims through the penis-like organ she has developed in her armpit"). Cronenberg becomes a wonder directly inspired by Nabokov.

Bonnat's Journal, tr. R. Baldick, Jan. 15, 1882: "Bing's head clerk gave his employer notice today ... by telephone + yes, by telephone! The very latest thing in letter-taking which cuts out all possibility of argument".

Feb. 7, 1992

Any reflection of Bush's record & prospects should centre on the difference between the promise he held out for himself over the Gulf & claims for victory, & the one his critics demand from him. For 46 years after the Second World War the United States pursued a policy widely known as containment that finally resulted in the surrender, but in the suicide of the enemy, which at the end of 1991 declared itself dissolved.

Robert M. Hutchins's Great Books are now almost officially considered to be the foundation of the "hegemonic discourse of White Western males", or of Eurocentrism. Hutchins had good looks. There was hardly a more clean-cut face to appear in the pages of Fortune & Administrators, who could avoid him in this respect. His name was Socratic, & he spoke with both wit & [illegible]. He was almost the only university president whose discourse can be listened to.

Fascism shares the paradox with national socialism: it serves a philosophy of political supernationalism that celebrates a mass-based legitimacy. Falling victim to the fallacy of "single cause", Pound accepts single sources for complex problems and settles finally, like the Jewish financier as the radix Malorum, J. M. Synge translates Petrarch into an Irish peasant idiom remarkably consonant with the vernacular complaints of Ngati. Synge's practice of creative mimesis occurs simultaneously (but independently) with Pound's first attempts, as a translator of ancient poetry, to "make it new". Imitation as Invention: this conceit comprises that discordia concors which describes the riddle of Pound's politics, which appears, in equal measure, backward-looking and progressive. Sigismondo Malatesta, pre-Medici warlord, patron-gambler, patron of the arts, this piratical pedagogue stood for Pound as the emblem & agent of "our Renaissance" (& provided a subject to reveal the skilled Cantos." (p. 229) He figures large in Pound's emergent concept of Historical Persona. Pound's view was influenced most by a pair of (widely contemporary) books by Antonio Beltramelli. His 1913 Book to the Condottiere Malatesta entitled in Rimini's honour Romantic love for his mistress (& Third Wife), Isotta; the second an early (pro-Mussolini) biography of Mussolini, said Il Duce's ethos & method as the living imitation of Malatesta's. Pound shared Beltramelli's wish to establish a new moral & political order. He ignored the barbarities in Sigismondo's dealings with his enemies & friends, for instance. In emphasizing the arbitrary glory of signifiers & the freedom of the reader, post-structuralist criticism leads to the empty literature of history; Ezra Pound's Letters to John Quinn, 1915-1925 ed. Timothy Materer, confirms the absolute necessity of Patronage, in Pound's view, to stage "our Renaissance".

In August 1890, J. A. Symonds wrote to Whitman — not for the first time — urging him out of the closet. Specifically, Symonds wanted Whitman to confirm his interpretation of the "Calamus" poems in the Leaves of Grass as inciting "ardent & physical intimacies" between men, intimacies which for the promise of social & political as well as personal renewal. Whitman's response was to denounce

Sigmund's reading, & thinks Clarin can be sure to have fathered 6 illegitimate children—if these existence there has ever been a scrap of evidence.

Nicholas R. Clifford, Spoilt Children of Empire. "No dogs or Chinese allowed" is a phrase that has haunted Anglo-Chinese relations in modern times. Allegedly these words were inscribed on a sign at the entrance to the Public Gardens in Shanghai's International Settlement. In fact, no such notice was ever posted. But although the sign was a myth, it was indeed true that neither dogs nor Chinese, save for amahs tending European children, could enter the park just opposite the British Consulate. Even when Chinese were eventually admitted, in 1928, a fee was charged, presumably to bar undesirables. Such an import is still levied by the "socialist" ~~park~~ proprietors of Shanghai's public parks today. Were "Shanghailanders", the 41,000 or so foreigners who dominated the city in which they constituted less than 2% of the population in the 1920s, were utterly oblivious of the offence caused by such exclusivity. When challenged on the point, they would direct the non-existence of the notice-board as if the sign rather than the substance were the issue. British social life in Shanghai revolved round the all-male Shanghai Club (no Chinese allowed on the waterfront thoroughfare, the Bund, the Country Club on the Bubbling Well Road, & the Recreation Ground, where gentlemen jockeys raced on semi-Mongolian ponies. There was also dog-racing at the Canidrome, polo at the Kiangwan Race Club. Over breakfast, the British would turn the pages of the North China Daily News, the oldest & stuffiest newspaper in China dubbed "the Old Lady of the Bund". In the evening the pleasure-seekers turned over younger ladies on the salubrious thoroughfare—such as "Blood Alley", a narrow lane off the Avenue Edward VII, notorious for fights among drunken sailors. The upper crust would rumba through the night in the air-conditioned luxury of Cliff's Nightclub. On Sundays, all classes would reflect under the Gothic steeples of Holy Trinity Cathedral, at St Andrew's Mission to Seamen, or in one of dozens of Nonconformist chapels. Culturally as well as not altogether absent, the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society sponsored lectures & published a semi-scholarly journal. But unlike the Americans & the French, the British founded no universities or museums. Shanghai produced the wealth for the Condition Humaine, England could offer

Private lives, such as the Cathay Hotel in 1928 in which Coward has not even mentioned the entry. "The term 'Shanghai Mind' was coined in 1929 by Arthur Ransome in one article in the Manchester Guardian. He condemned those British who "look down their noses" at Chinese building & are surprised that China is not grateful to them for these gifts." He condemned the readiness of the British in Shanghai to regard their own treaties as synonymous with, indeed to define, British national interest in the Far East. A classic example of the colonial mentality. But Shanghai was not a colony. What exactly it was constitutionally & diplomatically, is a point. A Foreign Office official conceded the effective independence of the Settlement. The Municipal Council chairman insisted that the "Diplomatic Body" in Peking, for whom a shadowy diplomacy now claimed as the ultimate source of political legitimacy for the settlement, could exercise no authority over the Council, which was "responsible only to the electorate of Shanghai." Mr Harding Fagenden's electorate in 1925 consisted of a mere 2,742 votes out of a Chinese population of 1½ million. The British, the largest foreign community & owning more than 55% of the land in the Settlement had no votes at all. After the crisis of 1927, they were given 3 seats on the Council, out of 25, on a democratic franchise. The French ordered things differently in their little concession adjacent to the Settlement. Chinese members were welcomed on to the Concession's municipal Council. But the Consul-General was effective dictator of the Concession. Chinese authorities secretly controlled their collusion in large-scale, highly profitable rackets, particularly drug-smuggling; the head of the Chinese detective force in the French Municipal Council was notoriously a member of the underworld Green Gang. Huang Jinrong, the "Dog Head General". 6½ feet tall, had the playfulness of an elephant. He threw a pig & the tenderness of a tiger. Sir Victor Sassoon's Cathay Hotel, once the acme of elegance, was sadly declined into a dingy rooming house. Only the odour of the city, particularly the nauseous smell of Soochow Creek, effectively an open sewer, was not missing. Perhaps in the age of imperial waterworks the pong was less offensive than it is in the contemporary ~~Victor~~ Hotel. ~~As Shanghai, Hong Kong is a comic-opera colonial relic~~

Frank Dikötter, The Discourse of Race in Modern China. The physiognomy of the White visitor to China has typically been pitied for its "ugly nature" & "primitive & undisciplined instincts". Chinese associated body hair with animality. Lin Yutang: "Hair on man's chest is unknown, & a moustache on a woman's face, not so rare in Europe, is out of the question in China — & hardly bare Mons Veneris is not uncommon in Chinese women." The European stereotype was further burdened with an intellectual degree of virility. He had testicles, according to Yu Zhongxie. Blacks were even more distorted. The discrimination which a Black encounters in the People's Republic was first documented by the Ghanaian Emmanuel John Hevi in An African Student in China. The Chinese, who had started with a self-image as "White", became increasingly aware of themselves as "yellow". Cosmetic surgeons cater for the presence of many Chinese for the "European" look. The most applauded entertainer in Shanghai recently has been the Eurasian heart-throb Fei Xiang.

A little over a year ago, the so-called "adult" comic Viz sold more than a million copies, giving it the highest circulation of any British magazine apart from the television guides. The high-minded Independent spoke for its fellow detractors in calling Viz "sexist, crude, juvenile". Paterson Waugh stigmatized it as "the authentic voice of modern Britain". He is afraid, a formidable rival to Viz in the laboratory humour & generalized taste stakes. Viz is (at best) undergraduate humour, & therefore perilously wide of its mark. Judging by the advertisements it carries for plastic vaginas, tape-recorded farts & even, at least some of its readers must find the mere mention of such things deliciously funny. Those to enjoy & need for its comrades can find enough in Viz to keep them going. Though obscenity features only in a minority of skits. But even its obscenity serves a wider purpose. Much is simply parody, of ordinary mainstream humour. Rarely have 6 handpacked anthologies of Viz. Satisfactions, obscenity & violence (albeit of the "cartoon" kind) are the staples here, the story-lines were too feeble to be sustained for more than a few frames, & its the draughtsmanship was as primitive as the humour. On the other hand it may have been necessary for Viz to get the worst playground conditions out of its system (the pathetic & pallid imitator Gas, by contrast, is beyond redemption). Johnny Fast-

a [illegible] for Butch Cassidy about the [illegible] detective." If they paid me to stop robbing banks that they'd pay [illegible] to stop me robbing banks, I'd stop robbing banks!

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peculiarly [illegible] appeal. The Schoolboy Finbarn Saunders has won't to extract the [illegible] doubles entendres (if rhymes, etc.) from every harmless exchange between his mother & their neighbour, Mr Gimlet. But jokes rely on him, twice, despite his relentless dirty-mindedness. He only [illegible] indecent to imagine what the Mary Tyrone here actually living underfoot right under his nose. The only full-time avant-merchant still in business at the TV theatre, Roger Mellie ("the Pleb on the Telly"). [illegible] does not make funny blacks & Arabs. Obesity etc. [illegible], may be called an affliction. But it is only funny as the Rages & Gladstone. "Slutty & Tell: Revelations of Hollywood Adultresses" ("you name 'em, I've fucked 'em") [illegible] "Jesse" is based in Newcastle, on a typical Geordie culture. "An entire nation kept [illegible] willies".

TLS, March 13, 1992

In French thinking, which is nationalist at the core & federalist on the surface — the tighter the federal arrangements are, the more Germany will be under French control. "France is the planning brain of Europe ... For the French Europe is in a sense, an [illegible] of their own personality." French officials are much attached to an equestrian metaphor: of the skilful French rider, controlling & directing the powerful but unruly horse. Until very recently, the Germans appeared to meekly accept the modest equine role assigned to them. They needed to be accepted by the Western allies & to be integrated with them. They were afraid of the Soviet Union & also afraid of their own selves. This began the process which led to the Treaty of Rome (Jan. 1958) & then in the 1970s & 80s to the expansion of the original "Europe of the Six" to the present "Europe of the Twelve". The European Community is no more than a confederation of 12 states, each of which still remains politically sovereign. But it is a confederation whose official documents are paradoxical in character. The states are not [illegible] to relinquish all sovereignty "overnight", but they are expected to move in the direction of relinquishing all sovereignty. To travel hopefully is just fine, but to arrive? French nationalists, listening to their President recommending federalism, are expected to think "We will outsmart them, & we will run Europe." German nationalists, listening to virtually identical language on the lips of their Chancellor,

are expected to think: "We must necessarily dominate a Federal Europe, because of our size, our strength & character, reflecting the strength of our national culture. The DM" By the end of 1991. Throughout the period in which West Germany was a distinctly polite, the Germans seemed willing, even eager, to play second fiddle to the French. By doing so, they projected an image of a West Germany modest, unassuming, even deferential, threatening nobody, not even by so much as a vocal intonation. So long as ~~there was~~ a Soviet threat was there, it was a German interest & top priority in Bonn to reassure the West. But after the Soviet threat disappeared, the need to reassure the West, while still felt to some degree, had lost the status of an absolute imperative. The French clearly did not like the idea of being "tied" with a united Germany particularly reassuring. They now tried to bet on the horse of this race, & the powerful beast started off down the road to Berlin. Its rider, Francois Mitterand, had been known, made his way to Moscow in a bid to avert, or at least to delay, the coming of German unity. He failed even to delay it. The attainment of German unity in 1990, to the relief of French opposition, hardly marked the end of a honeymoon as the first stage in the breakdown of a marriage of convenience that had lasted for 40 years. The first major symbolic act of the new European era was the re-interment of the bones of Frederick the Great in Berlin. This was both an appeal to German national pride, & an assertion of German national independence. Germany was in favour of the recognition of the two Republics, Croatia & Slovenia. The rest of the Community was against, & the U.S. strongly so. Faced with this an apparently powerful "Western Consensus", on any such matter, the old pre-1990 Bundesrepublik would have respectfully backed away. The new United Germany simply ignored the U.S., & tricked the Community around. The reversal of the Community position was particularly humbling for the French. It represented a further degeneration of the cherished equestrian metaphor. Our German Unity. The horse had thrown the rider, but now Croatia & Dalmatia it had dragged its rider in its wake. German hegemony in Europe is now a fact of life to which the rest of the Europeans must adjust as best we can. The partnership

still exists, in habitual rhetoric, along with the federal idea, but both now have a hollow ring to them. A federal Europe would be dominated by the new, confident united Germany. As for the future, Germany has an opportunity, in this decade, to refute Churchill's dictum that she will "always be either at your feet or at your throat." The idea of the United States of Europe is a disingenuous message, deriving from the two meanings of the word "State".

For the past six years, international-relations specialists have been struggling to keep their footing as the earthquake of events has destroyed the solid ground under their feet. Their problem began when Gorbachev set out, in his words "to deprive the West of an enemy": a deprivation that has made him a hate figure with American conservatives ever since. He had stolen their fox just as they had invested in hugely expensive new packs of hounds. But in depriving the West of an enemy, Gorbachev was to deprive himself of a country.

Here on Banana Skins Lifting Marszalkowska Street, Warsaw's main shopping boulevard. They spill out of the granite rubbish containers and smudge the otherwise pavements. Three years ago, they would have been impossible sight. Bananas were a luxury. If you had them, you flaunted them, displayed the keeping of communist hopes, awarded the privileges, were even labelled "Banana Children". In the next-door cinema neon advertisement for Coca Cola flash on and off all night. Italian fizzes and Italian menswear, sunglasses and sex boutiques cluster on the Pope John Paul Avenue. The leaguer of capitalism; no longer is P.J. O'Rourke's cunning judgment: "Commies love concrete" true.

René Wellek. A History of Modern Criticism. 1750–1950, Vol. VII. His ability to synthesize the scattered ideas of such individuals as Brecht, Thomas Mann, or Block. Important critical theorists are slighted in favour of influential outsiders or outsiders like Freud, Jung & Heidegger. Oscar Wolfel for instance is dispatched in 2 pages: & Adorno merely mentioned. Although Wellek is less cheese-paring with two other Marxist critics, Benjamin & Lukács. Among the members of the Prague ~~school~~ Circle Vodicka is ~~grudgingly~~ praised for showing "a proper concern for the problem of periodization" & "a grasp of a theory of genres"; but his initiation of "reception theory" in the 1940s is overlooked.

And who could gauge from Wellek's cool praise of Jakobson the flexibility of his mind? In his absorption with Roman Ingarden, he disregards Kridl & the Polish "Formalism" of Lledecki & Hopenszstand, for an overview of which one might have to turn to Victor Erlich's classic Russian Formalism. Largely by there is no mention of Julia Novakova, a prominent member of the Prague Circle, though we are obliged to read about the "derivative & undistinguished criticism" of Frantisek Chudoba. (Two significant Russians are also excluded: Olga Freidenberg, a brilliant comparatist of the 1920s known for her studies of the plot formation, & Zinaida Gippius, who was the wife of Merezhkovsky, who, in the wry BL Boris Belyi's words, "was 25 heads above her husband in subtlety of thought & feeling, & more of his ideas" The table of contents of all 7 vols of the History are a dreary reminder that history of criticism has been dominated by men.

Fiona Pitt-Kethley, ed. The Literary Companion to Sex : A naked woman is sprawled on a bed. Her clothes are strewn everywhere; we see enough. The man at the window has his clothes on. This cover is sufficient introduction to the book. The publisher (name shyly concealed under jacket, cover & true title sheet) allows Fiona Pitt-Kethley (name de tallas SEX on the front) the luxury of an explanation. The piece is a strip-show, but, because it is public, & its most disgusting aspect is the belief that is doing honest work, nudging the bf & wife & saying "Caught you looking! I know what you're after!" A bizarre aspect of Pitt-Kethley's enterprise is that she seems to think she can genuinely shock by picking plums from Genesis, the Talmud or her own reading of Aristophanes ("Clothed, my husband has the hots for me") & Martial ("Why, Thais, do you call me an old woman? / Your blow jobs are concerned, even old men can"). And that is what it comes down to. Audient "horrifies" her so much that she "half thought of excluding de Sade", but she includes a passage from Heptameron of Margaret, Queen of Navarre, in which a woman is stabbed 25 times & raped while dying. Marvell becomes a Restoration jock in this anthology & "To His Coy Mistress" "an extremely filthy poem", as if there were something dirty about an unanswered plea for love. The only piece referring to AIDS is Charles Thomson's worthless "Penis Poem" ("Next he came in contact / with what's called a sheath. / Though it helps reduce STD / And AIDS & sharp teeth".

TLS March 20, 1992

In the final months of the peace, about 10,000 children were brought in by the Movement for the Care of Children in Germany. Those who opened their homes included Harold Macmillan & the families of Margaret Thatcher & James Callaghan. That tells us something about British politicians. Most of the children never saw their parents again. How to view the spectrum of assimilation, ranging from the refugees who never really settled down in Britain to those who "seem to have become totally British, with no feeling left for their roots"? In the case of the classicist Eduard Fraenkel, Is there, Oxford as haven in adversity, that she has to choose an ex-professor from Freiburg to fill the chair...?" inquired "Atticus" in the Sunday Times — provoking a generously written retort from A. E. Housman. From contributions in it is but a short step to collaboration. After a decade extending for 654 pages of almost unbroken respectability, what about the rather few grave lapses? the occasional murderer, pornographer, or con-man. Those, the late Robert Maxwell pops up from time to time — just why is not clear, as he is certainly not German or Jewish. But his life & times are a gift. Most of the only other saintly disreputable characters admitted to the pantheon is the 19th-cent. German-Jewish apostate, christian missionary, adventurer, & self-promoter, the Rev. Joseph Wolff. German Jews were themselves divided on the subject. Many native-born, for example, disdained connection with immigrant Ostjuden. A protectionist academic trade-union mentality prevented many immigrant Jewish physicists from finding jobs. But Rudolf Peierls recalled receiving a rejection letter from Sir Wm Bragg (himself an immigrant from Australia) the physics professor at Manchester. As a result, many the best scientists, particularly in theoretical physics, stopped only briefly in Britain before moving on to the U.S. Werner Heisenberg's influence on the development of physics is certainly important, but he was in addition to have drawn us deeply into the scientific politics of Nazi Germany & its attempt to exploit nuclear fission. Many former colleagues had been expelled from Germany from the 1930s, only to often lose family, families & friends to be brutally destroyed. Bound found it hard to come come to terms with a former hero who had apparently accommodated himself to Hitler's infamy. He has written

the Nobel Prize at the age of 32, in the same year as Hitler gained power. For work done when he was 24. More than anyone else, he initiated the collapse of the Kaiser's central scientific belief in strict causality. It had been taken for granted that the ultimate explanation of natural phenomena would be found in a continuous chain of events, each uniquely determined by what preceded it. Quantum physics has displaced this classical determinancy by a precisely determined indeterminacy, a certainly by mere probability, almost precisely determined, for later work on a general theory of fields & particles gave little enough for a physicist to bite on. Just the outline of the skull north which D. C. Cassidy walks on water, & persuades his readers to follow him dry-shod. As a guest of the British government, after his capture at the end of the war, he turned his mind to two old chestnuts of the description of the turbulent flow of fluids & the phenomenon of superconductivity. The privations of 1914–18 / catching him in his teens left him, as they did many German intellectuals, with a hatred of violent revolution & a longing to help see his country ordered once more in scholarship & every civilized activity. He sympathized with students like saw the National Socialist movement as the instrument of regeneration, even while he detested its leaders & their barbaric degradation of admirable virtues. What was especially distasteful was the rise to authority of so many academic, clerical & stuffy Nazis implacably determined to uproot every trace of Jewishness in science. Their principal target was Einstein & everything he represented, in other words the mainstream of modern physics, especially relativity & quantum theory. The new Nobel laureate soon found himself the standard-bearer for the considerable few who resolutely opposed this heresy, & earned himself public denunciations as a "White Jew". Endangered investigation by Himmler's security department. Being brought near despair, he seriously considered accepting the offer of a chair in America. But love of his country won the day. Relief came through the rector's audience with Hitler. Heisenberg's mother & Himmler's were acquainted & the pack was called off, through of the cost of a concession made by Heisenberg & other physicists that Jew relativity was taught — as now to be founded — the

X Gustave Cohen, Ceux que j'ai connus p.65: "le grand-homme! Il est petit... Ses cheveux, il n'en avait point. Sa crâne était un genou, un caillou nue boule de billard un miroir à alouette. P 62. Ses yeux sont glauques, pâles, pas même expressifs, ses yeux. Le poissons frits, et c'est là le tourment des cœurs féminins!"

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names of Einstein & other Jews must not be mentioned. & took a leading part in the exploration of nuclear fission. & the Allies advanced in Europe, Heisenberg's dream, played by German physicists, was still struggling to get their reactor working. News of Hiroshima brought to him & his colleagues realization of the magnitude of their failure. He was not the only visionary to wish defeat on his country for the good of the novel

When he died in 1938 at the age of 75, Gabriele d'Annunzio — not D'Annunzio, which he thought plebeian — was given a state funeral as the considerable celebratory resources of Fascist Italy could manage. Fiume was absorbed into Yugoslavia as Rijeka, the legionaries melted into the burgeoning Fascist movement & d'Annunzio retreated to Lake Garda. In the trophy-crammed Vittoriale, he continued writing & fornicating to the end. But the one-eyed ~~Fascist~~ First Bard, dropping leaflets on Vienna from a bi-plane in his fifties, the > declamatory & monumental dramatist of the turn of the century, the decadent poet & novelist of the early years — were all passé. Nor was his exemplar to the younger generation's taste. In Italy, from the 1940s to the late 70s, d'Annunzio was generally felt to be an embarrassment. In the Anglo-Saxon world, he became the Italian Other, a mixture of buffoon & priapic poseur. His work was in print with few but little substance. Over the past 10 yrs, there has been a change. John Woodhouse, the Professor of Italian at Oxford, is internationally known as d'Annunzio scholar. In America, the eminent structuralist Paolo Valesio has said that d'Annunzio has the stature of Pirandello. He had a protracted liaison with Eleonora Duse

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The recent trials of William Kennedy Smith & Mike Tyson centred on the question of consent: in the first case, it was decided that there had been consent to intercourse & in the second that there had not. In Love ~~Dynamics~~ Women & Sexual Violence: A Study of the Dynamics of Male Domination, Marianne Hester, of Exeter University, asks a fine line indeed. She reproves Susan Brownmiller for distinguishing between heterosexual intercourse which is seemingly consensual & which she therefore deems to be all right, & heterosexual intercourse which is non-consensual & therefore oppressive to women. This is a mistake. "Heterosexual sex which women consent to is in actual fact a part of women's oppression". The

Revolutionary Feminist Group, as long ago as 1979, determined that "it is specifically through sexuality that the fundamental oppression, that of men over women, is maintained".

TLS, March 27, 1992

Admiers of G. M. Hopkins lend it full protective power, do him. Some moved not to protect him, or to have protected him too, against Jesuits, against some ignorant atheists, some against sexual vigor. From Norman White's Hopkins. A Literary Biography for the first time in its full detail the devious, venomous but significant politics that lay against behind Hopkins's appointment to the Chair of Classics in Dublin. How much he was a worse victim, & how much he may have suffered from them unaware, we are left to guess. Within the religious discipline his problem was never looked on & he continued to survive to the end of his life. Whether or not one thinks him wrong-headed, it is hard not to regard him as extraordinarily clear-headed. He one of those with a capacity for joy but none for happiness. In his edition of Hopkins's Notebooks & Papers in 1937, Humphry House first propounded the theory that Hopkins fell in love in Bridges's young cousin Digby Dolben. Dolben was an Etonian, with a passion for a Neo-Etonian, fiercely expressed in verse, & a strong penchant towards the Catholic Church. Hopkins met him briefly in the early months of 1865. One or two entries imply that he had been warned, perhaps by his Anglican confessor Liddon, to avoid studying about Dolben as a "dangerous" subject. "Looking at a dreadful word in a Lexicon... looking at a man tho' tempted me." Running on in thought last night unreasonably against warning or to subject of Dolben." "The stresses come together", he wrote in the Preface to "The Wreck of the Deutschland", "& so the rhythm is sprung" — ie. sprang like a chair-seat, but also like a trap. To Bridges: ". . . I always knew in my heart Walt Whitman's mind to be like my own from any words I say. He is a great Rambler. This is not a pleasant confession. This is not the entrance of an orator, but of a Master-head — or, of problems.

Without the Queen, the Royal family must often ask itself, whatever should we do? Do Her Majesty's calming, serene Stoicism & Regal needed & tested, surely now is that time. Can she act as a unifying force & move Prince Charles to the fractious House of Windsor? The Sovereign provides an essential pageantry & continuity in a clan which moved otherwise about to one long messy brawl. Every now & then, some colour & magazine will do a feature on these remote islanders (Tobruk? Gilbert & Ellice?) & worship Prince Philip. With amused condescension, the reporter notes that the tribesmen - who wear status-enhancing penis gourds - will gather round photographs of the Royal Consort & embark on elaborate propitiatory ceremonies. Why don't they pay taxes like the rest of us? They are not the rest of us, you fool! - is the preferred guarantee of a dialogue of the deaf. Like all crooked chronicles, the author must understand better than most that lost hereditary monarchs are born, not made. Can we avoid the false anthropic of Boswell & Johnson: Queen Victoria did at least appear to pay her back to the Revenue. When the fifth George's will was read on Jan. 22, 1936, the 8 Edward "was much perturbed that his father had left him no money & kept on saying: 'Where do I come in?'" The private secretary to the 5th George then explained that the late King felt that as Prince of Wales for 25 years, ought to have had the nice surplus out of the Duchy of Cornwall. He promptly blubbered that: "My mother & sisters have got large sums but I have been left out!" Our money is forever being said to "embody" the old alliance between Crown & people, or between Crown & work. Consider the evidence of Indo-European language. Such connotations as sinister, gauche, sinistre & maladroit & by contrast those of right & rectitude, droit & droite, diritto & Recht. (Arabic apparently, displays a distinctive bias). The words for right connote dexterity, uprightness, morality & juridically correct & the words for left their opposites. Or consider the so-called "falsely pairing" in Modern physics, documented in Martin Gardner's *The Ambidextrous*

Universe: Left, right & the pull & parity. Virtually everywhere, the right symbolically prevails. God made Eve out of Adam's left side & the forces of evil are on the left in medieval Judaism. According to the New Testament, the Son of Man "shall set the sheep on his right ~~side~~ hand, but the goats on the left"; to the former He shall say "Come ye, blessed of my Father, shall inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world"; but to the latter, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire..." & the Son of Man shall sit "on the right hand of power." Koranic theology displays the same bias. In tribal customs the right also prevails in conventional customs & social etiquette. In the light of all this one can see that the political symbolism of left & right combines laterality & hierarchy, formal equality & real inequality. In appropriating the vocabulary, the political left transforms its meaning, refusing to acknowledge the hierarchical context as a natural given. "The left" denotes a tradition & a project born of the Enlightenment & expressed in the principle of 1789. The left is committed to the progressive rectification of inequalities that treat as the Right does as sacred, inviolable, natural or immutable. It sees the battle against different inequalities as part of a single war. Those who believe only in movement politics — the struggle against racism, say, or the feminist cause — & deny the very idea of an overall objective project "beyond the fragments", thereby deny an idea essential to the Left. The Left sees the Principle of Rectification as underpinning something bigger. It moves naturally from, say, class to racial & gender inequalities, & also from inequalities within the nation state to those on a global scale. Rectification requires parity. When the Left comes to occupy the whole political space, its rectifying objective is subverted in the process. Seeking to appropriate & impose a unique social order, they in turn demand rectification, & those anti-socialist Left in the East who have championed both the merits of the old socialist Left in the West is all the more difficult & ambiguous. "Socialism" stands for a feasible & viable bio-economic system that is an alternative to Capitalism & to replace it. But no such system exists or can any longer be believed in. "Real Socialism" at the end of the 20th century could only be derided as an ugly 20th-cent. economically & grindingly unjust & coercive social order. No "reformed" Market-oriented ~~Version could ever be formed. Nor is there a plausible "Third Way" between the two ideas.~~

for two reasons. First, there is no second way. And second, there is no one first way, but rather indefinitely many, from Brazil to Japan, from egalitarian Taiwan to social-democratic Sweden. Nor is there any reason to think that capitalism's versatility has reached its limit. Is socialism then, the opposite of liberalism? Without Marxist need to say this, condemning "bourgeois" rights & freedoms as shams. Or does socialism, finally, contrast with individualism? By "individualism" I here mean the free-market morality proclaimed by Austrian economists such as von Mises & von Hayek, & practised by Thatcherism, & with echoes of R.H. Tawney's "acquisitive society". For Market individualists, "society" does not exist, as Mrs Thatcher says. For socialists, it is precisely such public policy intervention to rectify injustice. What is left is a strongly egalitarian, liberal Kantian individualist ~~moral~~ political morality that can inspire particular political moralities of institutional innovations, programmes & laws & by which they can be judged. Old Left-Right maps still make sense: our solution, & the Left is Right.

Shelley spent 3 months at Keswick in 1811-12 & described Southey about 18 months & wrote to friend: "I tell him that Threadneedle Street is not, that he is 19 & I am 37." Coleridge regretted his own absence: "Poor Shelley! It is a pity I often think that I never met with him, I could have done him good." 8 yrs later, from exile in Italy, Shelley described Coleridge as "A shrivelled eagle among blinking owls" & ridiculed Wordsworth (in Peter Bell the Third) as a "moral reformist" & attacked all three Lake poets as Tory renegades. Shelley's efforts to proselytize the peasantry caused so much anxiety to local gentry. At Keswick, after Shelley had been conducting experiments with hydrogen gas in the garden, his landlord announced that he wished Shelley to leave the house. Having complained of the "provincial stupidity" of Lynmouth, Shelley found Keswick no better: "the land & the country is lovely & the people are detestable". Eager as he was to disseminate "the doctrine of Philanthropy & Freedom" in Ireland he gave up on the "Irish mob". Shelley's name was not inscribed in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, until 1954. The British Library owns the full correspondence between Shelley & Lucy Schoolcraft, Elizabeth Hitchener, the first of many "sisters" of his soul, ~~in platonic exchange on politics, literature & metaphysics, & who over a year, subtly~~ when "the divine Portia" was persuaded to give up her school & join

Shelley & Harriet in Wales; She was soon discovered to be "an artful, superficial ugly homeopathetical heart & a woman" & pensioned off with £160. The only poem of Shelley's to reach a wide audience during his lifetime was Queen Mab: with its long note attacking Christianity & marriage & defending Vegetarianism. Shelley never really changed his views. He continued to attack Kings & priests, & to glorify love as the good liberating & creative force in nature & society. In the 20th century, his poetry was attacked from opposing political & literary camps; T. S. Eliot found his ideas "repellent", while F. R. Leavis, in wilful misreading of several major texts, accused Shelley of "vicious" & "corrupt" self-indulgence. More recently Shelley has been reclaimed by the Gay Movement & other as a post-modernist, the most attractive to the later critical approaches, George Eliot, Hardy, Yeats & Auden, Forster & Virginia Woolf were all Shelleyans.

In America the "backlash" against feminism is a hot topic. Susan Faludi's book, naming the phenomenon, is published in Britain next week. Robert Bly, the author of the new Gospel of ~~the~~ men masculinity, Iron John, has just proposed how we should be here in the U.S. Another influential American manliness book, Fire in the Belly: On being a man, by Sam Keen, has just been issued in the U.K. It is most enjoyable. Like Bly, Keen presents himself as no opponent to feminism, rather as a follower, just taking the message a little further – to men. "But men suffering from gender hubris is also a fact."

Catherine Cookson is a publisher's dream in every respect, apart from being human. But human she is, & now 85. Publishers have recently run into difficulties in attempting to perpetuate the productivity of lucrative authors beyond the grave. The words ghosted, with varying degrees of acknowledgement, for Virginia Andrews & Alistair Maclean have met with some stiff opposition. Tomorrow are to be congratulated on this pre-emptive strike. It will allow them legally to emblazon Catherine Cookson's choosement or brand-name on the books that recall each one in perpetuity. Tomorrow's Publishers will award "The Catherine Cookson Fiction Prize" £10,000 to "an unpublished novel, which possesses the strong characterization, authentic background & storytelling ability which are the hallmarks of Cookson's work". The most popular contemporary author Cookson personally accounts for about a quarter of the 100 titles ever [illegible] borrowed

The most eagerly awaited edition, with John Kidd & the James Joyce Research Center at Boston University. W. W. Norton hope to publish Ulysses on June 16.
With an introduction by Denis Donoghue & an editor's Preface by Kidd.

from public libraries; she had 62 words in print & usually publishes 2 more each year.

February 28, 1992

The imminence of ruin drove Maxwell off the end to extreme of speculation & unusually blatant forms of embezzlement. Maxwell had been stoking off bankruptcy for 40 years or more by methods which changed little in substance. Maxwell found in his belated return to Judaism the closest he ever had to a sense of belonging.

One in every 200 people in Britain is an Italian, or of Italian descent. Chinese takeaways are fast replacing the cafés with their espresso machines, but restaurants & fish shops with names like Bracchi or Berni mark many of the country's high streets. Many of the 250,000 British Italians continue to demonstrate bond & relatives with a sense of local allegiance or campanilismo (meaning literally the spirit of the church bell-tower) which have survived decades of exile. Every Sunday at least 1000 people gather for Mass at the London Italian Church of St Peter's in Clerkenwell. The location for the popularity of Sunday schools in the industrial areas was due to the fact that it gave parents the opportunity to socialize in private at the traditional time in the week. Following the declaration (Mussolini's) of war on June 10, 1940, the Italians of Britain suffered attacks from gangs screaming "Wop" & "Hop-a-le" Italian-owned shops & private houses were set ablaze & looted.
John Gardner: "Read the Faulkner. You can lay your hands on, & then read a Hemingway to clean the Faulkner out of our system."

TLS, Feb 7 1992

Robert Hutchins was the promoter of the Great Books, a P. T. Barnum-like A. for mutilation which the Ofends the ee, of the Lastyne. The Great Books are each considered to be "the foundation of the Hegemonic Structures of White Western Males", or of Eurocentrism. He had some good luck, & spoke with spirit & feeling.
In August 1890, J. A. Symonds wrote to Walt Whitman — not for the first time — urging him out of the closet: & perspicuously he wrote to Whitman &

Confirm his interpretation of the "Calamus" poems in Leaves of Grass as more "direct & physical in timbre" because they intelligibly portray the bromance social & political as well as personal renewal. Whitman's fastidious response was to disown Symonds's reading & then to claim outrageously to have fathered 6 illegitimate children — of whose existence there has never been a scrap of evidence.

"No dogs or Chinese allowed" is a phrase that has haunted Anglo-Chinese relations in modern times. Allegedly these words were inscribed on a sign at the entrance to the Public Gardens in Shanghai's International Settlement. In fact no such sign was ever posted. The park on the Bund was opposite the British consulate, was a gift of the British government to the Shanghai Municipal Council. But although the sign was a myth, it was indeed true that neither dogs nor Chinese, save the amahs tending European children, could enter the park. British social life in Shanghai revolved around the all-male Shanghai Club (no Chinese allowed), the Country Club on the Bubbling Well Road, & the Recreation Ground. But the Americans & the French, the British joined two Universities & Museums. In French Concession, though it provided the milieu for La Condition humaine; English could offer Private Lives, written in the Cathay Hotel in 1929 (in which Coward does not even mention the city — it might as well have been written in Tonga). The Nanking smell of Old Soochow Creek, effectively an open sewer — perhaps in the age of impeached Watergate the pong was less offensive than it is

A little over a year ago, the so-called "adult" comic Viz, Select Cards, Juvenile Jokes sold more than more than a Million copies. Anderson Cooper had already ostigmatized it as "the authentic voice of Middle Britain". He is after all, a formulaic rival to Viz in the repository humour & general bad taste staples of cameo appearances for plastic turds, tape-recorded farts & Zoo ex-inmate Merchant Butch Cassidy: "If they paid me to stop robbing banks, what they're paying them to stop me robbing robbing banks, I'd stop robbing banks".

T.L.S. Jan 3. 1992

James Joyce's works come out of copyright this week. He seems to have anticipated Tom Stoppard's joke in Travesties: "What did you do in the Great War Mr Joyce?" "I wrote Ulysses. What did you do?" The heroic abstraction for which editors seem to have an unseeing hollow sound. If history was a nightmare it was a heroic Ulysses from which all Europe — & 1904 just Ireland — was trying to awake. Leopold & Molly Bloom may disagree, like all spouses, on many things, but they shared a principled aversion to war. Without declared aversion Joyce was clearly against the cult of Cuchulain surveyed by Patrick Pearse, W.B. Yeats & Lady Augusta Gregory. Yeats, throughout his life older than Joyce, believed in purging decadence & worked only to make it live again in Irish Cuchulains. The epic hero. Who defended the gap of the North of Ireland against all comers, even unto death. Joyce abandoned Pearse's Gaelic League classes, on discovering that his teacher could not pronounce Irish without Londonizing the English language. Joyce believed that a writer's first duty might be to insult rather than flatter national vanity. The central character of Ulysses is an Irish Jew. Joyce explained to Frank Budgen: "Bloom was a bachelor & never lived with a woman. Sexually living with a woman is the most difficult thing a man has to do, & he never did it." Joyce liked to point out that Helen, whose beauty was a cause of the Trojan War, must have been a wrinkled & faded woman by the time it was over. All the lovers of Ulysses have seen Bloom's androgyny for what it is. The Irish problem was the personal one of a thick-witted subject to dour performance & dull-witted administrators. As Hazel had observed, the boys looked at history in exercising toys, also learn what it be like to win: they hope no chore left to minor their masters better than the masters knew themselves. To those who said, "Unhappy the land that has no heroes," he might have replied with Brecht's Galileo: "No! Unhappy the land that needs a hero."

T.L.S. Jan 10 1992

Oscar Wilde: "A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth ~~glancing at, for it leaves out the country at which Humanity is always landing~~

For 70 yrs. Communism served to many to provide the Utopia for Which they were searching. Its collapse has left us without a vision of an ideal society for, despite the merits of contemporary capitalism & liberalism, they can hardly be called ideal. The anarchists in the 19th century were quick to expose the illusions of the Marxists. Bakunin in 1868: "Communism concentrates all the forces of society into the state ... which, on the pretext of making men moral & civilized, has up to now enslaved, oppressed, exploited & depraved them." And Kropotkin predicted that in Russia "the very word 'socialism' will become a curse as it happened in France ... after the rule of the Jacobins." Marx's & Engels' prediction that the state will eventually wither away clearly will not be fulfilled. Recently a new anarchism of the Right or "anarcho-capitalism" has emerged in the U.S. — an economy as free from every sort of force as possible with only a minimal state (advocated by Ayn Rand & Murray Rothbard). Tom Goodwin indeed provided the most thoroughgoing & consistent vision of an anarchist society. Bakunin was the first to describe himself as an anarchist, but he had a black, violent side — his rage against Jews & homosexuals, his passionate advocacy of torture: "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity! I say rather Liberty, Equality & Severity." Bakunin invite[s] fascination with violence.

In the Georgian Criminal World law-breaking does not mean the majority of professional crooks. Even the desperate ones — butchers & cooks, bakers, servants & seamstresses, out of work, in debt, or simply fatally tempted in Walpole's "Great is your opportunity" state. Was Justice itself blind, or the Law unable, that lawlessness flourished the more?

T.L.S., Jan. 17, 1992

When the Revolution & the Great Depression. After a nomadic life lived in rented rooms & houses, Nabokov ended his days domiciled in "permanent transience" (Brian Boyd) in a hotel (it "eliminated the nuisance of private ownership") in about neutral Switzerland. The Nabokovs just managed to make their escape from Nazi Europe (Vera was Jewish). After Lolita it is game & set & match all the way. This celebration of details obeys a law of diminishing returns. Any of Chekhov's

Short stories are greater—more subtly moving—than Nabokov's Kabakov's "scorched-earth" policy of dismissing other writers. Balzac a fake. Dostoevsky a particularly repellent fake. Rilke, Henry James, Thomas Mann, T.S. Eliot? Fell all complete fakes. Marx beneath contempt. Freud simply the Viennese witch-doctor who "debunked" family life (My half of the students who simply walked out when Kabakov was indulging in one of his vilifications of Freud in his lecture course) when Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago displaced Exodus from number one on the best-seller list in 1958, Nabokov reacted with the dismissal: "Half trashy, naked romantic fake & inept book". It was this condescending contempt—unmasked by so many important European writers which imitated & lauded Nabokov's style—which Derrida's famous slogan, Il n'y a pas de hors-texte (does not mean that history & nature don't exist but that they too, like much else, are texts. "No more Marcy publishing", a prominent New York publisher told his staff. He was economically dead right. Books sink or swim on the basis of more literary merit rather than on a promise of huge sales. In many American universities, this problem has been solved by the elimination of all distinction between literature & the artefacts of popular culture. For students enrolled in what are still called "English" courses are assigned problems, thrillers, even comics, not to mention movies & videos. Those majoring in English receive their degrees without ever having been required to read a line of Shakespeare or Milton. When a professor at a big Midwestern University announced that he would teach a course on Henry James, several of his politically engaged engage colleagues advised their students not to sign up for it on the ground that James would be taught as a "straight" rather than a "gay" one—a practice that seemed to be politically incorrect. In such mainstream journals as the New York Times Book Review new titles by blacks, feminists et al are routinely given what are called "sweatheart" notices. The principal exceptions to this rule are books written by a celebrity in whose exploitation the publishing industry has made a heavy investment. Such books are launched with media panache. As a result the book in question may secure a short-lived lookout on the touchy bestseller lists. The

the Mss grave of "Also Noticed."
If in doubt check it out.

Pulitzer Prizes & the National Book Critics Circle awards for literature, & the writers' fellowships of the MacArthur & Guggenheim foundations, are tightly controlled monopoly of the Left-Liberal establishment. What does flourish mightily in the writing of literary biography. This is what the publishers pay for & the more salacious the better. Nat Brent Richmond has also capable & lively pen. The story is told from a lengthy & magisterial price "written" by Henry James for the paper, one & a half centuries has been removed in the editing. The proofs were duly sent to James & subsequently returned by messenger with a note slip: "Dear Richmond. Here's the Healing corpse. Yours & Thatcher's trade." Alan Bryce-Jones proceeded to take the T.L.S into the 2nd half of the 20th Century, under it formed rather than changing it's accuracy & Kick-. Enter, in 1974, the Paper's seventh Editor, slipper & the dragon & anonymity for violator file cards & mysteries, according to David Robin Lennard, Buff I Dizzles: the Exploitation of Parenthesis in English Printed Verse ranging from the well-known "(My God!) My my God" Nicholas Hopkins's "Carrion Comfort" to the ("perhaps") in Marvell's "Bermudas", artfully placed. Difficult enough to admit & contain doubt.

T.L.S. Jan. 24, 1992

René Wellek's remark that the Stalinist dictatorships knew the value of literature enough to think it worth banning, while the corseted pedants Marxists who are paid to teach it in the Academies killed treat it as if it had no value at all.

Endless volumes written in prose "as dispiriting as a subway ride" (Lewis Mumford). John Dewey repeated his claim, not that democracy is good, but that everything good is democracy if not Goodness itself, is Democracy. His lengthy & turgid old age only made him notably out of date. When existentialism & analytical philosophy came to the fore after the Second World War. But Richard Rorty married him with Wittgenstein & Heidegger as the three most important philosophers of our century. Dewey's democracy is a self-proud version of Heidegger's "average everydayness."

The supervisor proposes to his research students "an ordinary somewhat attentive look".

TLS, Jan. 31, 1992.

Sir G. R. Elton's list list in Return to Ephesus is a long one. The large group are all Frenchmen. "He almost always sounds better in French" he claims, seeing as the equivalent (imperfect) of "crack", & talks a little wistfully of "the capricious radiation that comes from the forehead of Derrida & Foucault". He clings tenaciously to the position of the pragmatic historian dogged by persons & facts in the archives. He must recoil in horror from the prose-style of Natalie Zemon Davis's most recent book: Fiction in the Archives. He would do well to read Peter Novick's recent book, That Noble Dream which astutely analyses the fallacious notion that history can be a purely objective science.

Stephen Collini elevates the Victorian educated class into the Victorian governing class when they were an ornamental appendage. Arnold might sing both notes like Rosebery: the notes did not chime with the Arnolds.

TLS, Feb. 14, 1992

Marc Fumaroli, L'Etat culturel: A cancer has steadily been eating away at French culture — "l'Etat culturel". Projects & ways of doing that are supposedly egalitarian but are basically pretentious, facile & empty have been foisted on the French public. Jack Lang, like Malraux, wanted to find a third cultural way between East & West. Lang struggled against the Americanization & entertainment of the arts. Paradoxically, all this he could find to sponsor in France. Was he disclaiming American Counterculture. The result was to make of the French a State a European & Madison Avenue

Robert Darnton, Edition et Sédition: L'Univers de la littérature Clandestine au XVIIIe Siècle. Rousseau's success stemmed from his book a slogan ("Man was born free but is everywhere in chains") which even unlettered Frenchmen could fit with meaning for themselves. Ideas & attitudes spread through books directly & indirectly by a sort of "capillary action".

The assimilated Jews' belief that Justice for me & my people has its roots in French soil. Wealthy, assimilated Jewish Dreyfus had married wealthy, spirited Lucie Hadamard. The young man possessed the company of horses, women & books & had a keen sense of style, which he found

Nothing marks inaccuracy better than foreign words.

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fixsome, spiteful & envious. They found him pretention, affectate & aloof. His wealth insulated him from their camaraderie. His rise, we appear, stands forth, "prone". Alfred insisted on separating the iniquity of his fate from the ideal of French justice. As Clemenceau once remarked, "When fools clash, minds close." The army, la grande muette, had seldom kept its mum. Emile Zola, whose works "were full of crude racial determinisms ... Harbor later standards would be considered flagrantly anti-Semitic."

in French

What is acceptable can sound very silly in English. Julian Green writes English, but in French he is a master; it is not the same thing.

Maurice Girodias of the Olympia Press in Paris was a pornographer, "self-confessed". He brought together Beckett & Bottoms Up, Naked Lunch & Naked Blast at Heaven's Gate, Lolita & Lesbos in Love, Lust, Cash etc. Girodias was never shy of cashing in on a success. Following the publication of the Whipping Club (by "Angela Pearson"; 1958), he quietly brought out The Whipping Post etc. As the son of Jack Kahane, first publisher of Henry Miller's Tropic books, Girodias could legitimately claim a pedigree rooted in the Bohemian Paris of the 1920 & 30s. An Englishman, Kahane founded the Obelisk Press in Paris in 1931. He also took on Anais Nin, Lawrence Durrell (The Black Book) & Frank Harris. One of his earliest ventures was to issue (for the Children's Editor) the first published portion of Finnegans Wake. Girodias adopted his French mother's name & founded The Olympia Press in 1953. He published Beckett's Watt, Molloy, Malone Dies & The Unnamable. He issued some Pluto Press books, giving them titles calculated with festive pleasure — School for Sin, Helen & Desire, White Thighs; all commissioned from Girodias's "first lady of lust", Frances Lengel, aka Alexandra Bocchi — & then listed on the catalogue to a clientele. Once a title had acquired a sufficiently profitable reputation, he would call on an in-house team of hacks to supply a text. Lolita was probably his most famous publication of all.

T.L.S., Feb. 21, 1992

By the time Erving Goffman died in 1982, aged 60, he had become the most famous sociologist of his generation. This was due in large part to his first book

The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (1956). Selves do not exist as authentic entities apart from their presentation. The wine, far from being its own place, is what is done from everyone else's.

Then, in 1937, Virginia Woolf's penultimate novel, *The Years*, reached the American best-seller lists, no one was more surprised or delighted than she: "Honestly I am floored." Fifty years having passed since Woolf's death, all the books published in her lifetime became out of copyright in Britain on New Year's Day, a day commemorated by the mass-market heroines. Her simultaneous eminence and presumed marketability. Once Woolf began to be published in America, the American edition inevitably varied from the English. This seems to result from revisions being made for the (usually later) American edition. Woolf's erudition and complex, though subtle, habit of allusion have often been largely unnoticed by all but the closest readers. She does not flaunt her allusions as do Joyce, Eliot and Pound. Her current status as a canonical "classic" and cultural icon owes much to feminism within the academy. The simplest way to take the pulse of the aggregate English faculty in America is to attend the MLA. Four exclusive sessions; 3 on her work and 1 on the woman herself. Her likeness now adorns everything from tea-towels to T-shirts.

TLS, Feb. 28, 1992

Robert Maxwell had been staving off bankruptcy for 40 yrs or more by methods which changed little in substance. His belated return to Judaism the closest he ever had to a sense of belonging.

TLS, March 6, 1992

In *Borrowed Time and Time Saved* (1988), Daisy Levi was curiously distraught by the ~~suppression~~ of the supposed authenticity and power of human memory. The "memories which lie within us" "carved in stone" by us are often muddily erased or changed.

Gide began constituting a dossier entitled "Pédérastie" as early as 1895. It was to prove a lifelong obsession. All that survives is a small part of the original archive. The influence of his father Paul Gide's *Magnum Opus* on the situation of women under both ancient & modern law has yet to be fully assessed; his uncle, the economist Charles Gide's *Lectures on Neo-Malthusianism* (1919) provoked his nephew to write, only half-jokingly to Jean Schlumberger: "Really, I can only see one honorable solution. The Greek one."

Paul Slansky. The Clothes Have no Emperor : A Chronicle of the Reagan years (1989)

In the last 21 years of her life, the period following Gertrude Stein's death in 1946, Alice B. Toklas devoted herself to keeping the writer's memory bright & consulted Nor's personality is seemed the salient feat of Stein's life, & the "marriage" between her & Toklas as a pattern of perfect devotion. "Being true to oneself" is the perfect respectful way of keeping to her monstrous egotism. Stein's anti-grammar was derived from the latent literary & took her present. She was one of the least experimental writers of her time. She rebelly started calling herself a genius after Toklas came on the scene. They had both been brought up in immigrant Jewish families in San Francisco in the 1880s, but met in Paris in 1907. Leo Stein was displaced from their shared apartment by the advent of Alice, & later became Gertrude's most vitriolic detractor. Gertrude was a domineering husband, Alice a masochistically servile wife. Gertrude: "It's hard work being a genius. You have to sit around doing nothing." The second rose to only became real to her when a publisher's order was not fulfilled, & then she became panic-stricken. Feeling was very important to her, Mabel Dodge once watched her consume 5 pounds of beefsteak "in one sitting", while Alice "ate a little slice daintily, like a cat." Stein was domineering & had a marked sadistic streak, forcing Alice to drive through tunnels & eat disgusting things.

Apropos that Patrick Buchanan was planning an assault on the National Endowment for the Arts for "wasting our tax dollars on pornographic & blasphemous art," Bush sacked his own appointed chairman of the NEA, John Frohnmayer. Among the recipients of funds from the NEA were the "performance artist" Karen Finley, whose act is to smear her naked body with chocolate, meant to represent excrement, & the Conceptual artist Andres Serrano, whose fame derived from "Piss Christ," a jar of his own urine in which he had submerged a crucifix. "Tongues Untied," a documentary film about black homosexuals had received a $5,000 grant from an NEA subsidiary. Angry Congressmen realized too late that Bush apparently did not the political peril of being artistically avant-garde! A recent film "Jesus of Avoriaz" condemned, which received support from NEA, pictured a gay actor dressed as Jesus standing on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York & insulting Cardinal O'Connor. The message, as I gleaned, is "to make sure your beloved Coming to safe over the Christmas!

(Croce, Estetica, tr by Colin Lyas (Cambridge).

TLS March 13, 1992

French officials are much attached to an equestrian metaphor: of the skilful French rider controlling & directing the powerful German horse. For a long time & until very recently the German horse appeared as meekly accepting the modest equine role assigned to him. They needed to be accepted by the Western allies & to be integrated with them: they were afraid of the Soviet Union & were afraid of themselves. The European Community is a product of the Federalist approach. Rather than relinquish all sovereignty over night, the Member States were asked merely to relinquish the dogma of indivisibility. Most citizens of the 12 States would probably be surprised to know that the sovereignty of their own state is already scheduled for liquidation. Fortunately for the Eurocrats, very few citizen read their documents, although they are available free of charge. To travel hopefully is just fine, but to arrive? I don't believe that President Mitterand (e.g.) really wants to see the day when he can announce to the French people that French national sovereignty has become a thing of the past. By the end of 1991, it had become clear that it is the German exception alone, that is soundly based. Throughout the period in which West Germany was distinct politically the Germans decided not, even once, to play second fiddle to the French, making unspeaking allies dependable. As long as a Soviet bear there was a German interest in Bonn to reassure the West: the French need not fear to rein in the potentially horse of their partner powerful beast bolted off down the road to Berlin. Its rider, Mitterand, having been thrown, made his way to Moscow in a bid to avert, or at least to delay, the coming of German unity. He failed even to delay it. The attainment of German unity in 1990, in the teeth of French opposition, marked not so much the end of a honeymoon as the first stage in the breakdown of a marriage of convenience that had lasted for 40 yrs. Once German unity, the horse had thrown the rider, but over Croatia & Slovenia it had dragged its rider in its wake. German economic hegemony in Europe is now a fact of life.

In depicting the threat from an enemy, Gorbachev was to deprive himself of the country all are shooting at a moving target.

TLS March 20, 1992

"Lo, then, Oxford to burden in Latinity that she has to choose an ex-professor from Freiburg [Edward Fraenkel, a German-Jewish refugee from the Nazis] to fill the chair?" inquired "Atticus" in The Sunday Times — provoking a famous written retort from A. E. Housman. A professional academic trade-union mentality prevented some immigrants from

finding jobs in England. Many of the best German-Jewish scientists, particularly in theoretical physics, stayed only briefly in Britain before moving on to the U.S.

The Nazi scientists were implacably determined to uproot every trace of Jewishness in science. Their principal target was Einstein, i.e. the mainstream of modern physics, especially relativity & quantum theory. The Nazi Nobel laureate Johannes Stark vehemently opposed this theory, & carried himself public denunciation as a "White Jew", & physicist investigator in Himmler's security department.

TLS, March 27, 1992

The decisive, venomous but significant politics that lay behind Hopkins's appointment to the chair of classics in Dublin. How much he was aware of them, & how much he may have suffered from them ourselves, we are left to speculate. Hopkins fell in love with Bridges's young cousin Digby Dolben. Dolben was an Etonian, with a passion for a fellow Etonian, fervently expressed in verse, & a strong penchant towards the Catholic Church. One or two entries in Hopkins's early Notebooks imply that had he had been warned, perhaps by his Anglican Confessor Liddon, to avoid thinking about Dolben, as a "dangerous" subject. "The Spheres come together," he wrote in the preface to "The Wreck of the Deutschland", & "so the rhythm is sprung" — i.e. sprung like a chain-reel but also like a trap. "I always knew in my heart that Walt Whitman's mind to be more like my own than any man's living. As he is a great scandal this is not a pleasant confession. But this makes me the more desirous to read him & the more determined that I will not."

The idea that politics is a conflict between Left & Right was born in Versailles in August 1789 in the noisy, unruly Constituent Assembly. When those of the same like mind gathered & voted together to right & left of the President's desk. Consider the evidence of Indo-European languages. Such as the Latin sinister, gauche, Linkisch & maladroit & by contrast those of right & rectitude, droit & droite, diritto & Recht. Arabic, apparently, displays a similar bias. The word for right connotes dexterity, uprightness, that is customarily, morally & judicially correct; & the words for left their opposites. God made Eve out of Adam's left side & the forces of evil are on the left in medieval Judaism. The Son of Man "shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left." The Son of Man shall sit "on the right hand of power". Roman theology displays the same bias. In appropriately the metaphor the political Left transformed to mean: Left is right.

In American, the "backlash" against feminism is a hot topic. Susan Faludi's book has named the phenomenon. Robert Bly's "Iron John", the gospel of the new masculinity; Sam Keen, "Fire in the Belly: on Being a Man": "But men's suffering from gender roles is also a fact"

TLS, Oct 2, 1992

Victorian "height" often stinks, like cheese or game. That time, according to the OED, discovered along with the "high collar," "high art" (George Eliot) & "high seriousness" (Arnold)

In the enormous Ruskell archive at McMaster University in Canada, are over 2000 letters of Lady Ottoline Morrell from Ruskell. In view of his later sexual fuss with his various women friends his attachment to her seems almost pathetically intense. She returned his love, but not physically — his hands "were like the paws of a bear, no feeling in them." When Dora Carrington sexually bored Bertrand Russell he told her, like a good rationalist, that he would bring up a child of hers by someone else if she wished. She had two by someone else. Russell retaliated by finding a child bride, a young girl who became his third wife & eventually, ex-wife. His how-to-be-happy books were called "Conquest" by Weinstein. His renaissance as figurehead of the anti-nuclear movement was engineered by his fourth wife & his private secretary Ralph Schoenman.

The new chairman of the Literature Panel of the Arts Council, Michael Holroyd, often accompanied by his wife Margaret Drabble, is the leading authority on the British Council's literature tours overseas. Edward Luttwak, economist, military expert, Roman historian & much more besides, was offered a year at All Souls, Oxford — a sort of consolation American academics are supposed to accept on the four-year theft went to the college named a place that had become overwhelmed by its own antiquity & effete richness, declared Like Macartney's failure to Kowtow in Peking, it is one of those things that should not, could not have happened.

TLS, Oct. 9, 1992

There is a price to pay for the thirst for notoriety — a price any former arid freak would agree. Leni Riefenstahl, The Wave of Time describes a bizarre scene in which Hitler, strolling along a Normandy beach, has to summon all his heroic self-control not to pounce upon her in a fit of passion. Susan Sontag in a famous 1975 essay on Riefenstahl, "Fascinating Fascism." Her thirst for applause, her bottomless narcissism. Beaverbrook: "Churchill was always a lucky friend: to his friends Hannibal was to Livia." Duff Cooper called him "Beaverbrook" & Rosa Lewis nicknamed him "Beanacrook"; he really does look a crook from a rogue.

re Thos Monologue of the deaf.

Cecil Sarkinson sing: "The Working Class can kiss my arse" at Lunch Counter at the Garrick Club

Here is a strong case for subjects to have the legal right over permission for the publication of a biography of himself or herself in their lifetime — Natasha Spender.

T.L.S. Oct. 16, 1992

The reviewer of G. M. Trevelyan's English Social History in Annals complained of its tone "de complaisance et d'autosatisfaction". Trevelyan described his aim as "scholarly but readable history". The "but" is misplaced defensiveness. accurate history is not necessarily any less readable than its opposite. And "readable" sloppiness or boorishness. If we know too much about leading the attendant Man-on-the-Clapham Omnibus or non-professional reader, we risk falling into ad-man's cliché hype. Post-Modernism amounts to a denial of the possibility of any "fact", of the authority of the author over the interpreter, & thus of any objective truth about the past. Historiography, for example, has been deconstructed by Dominick LaCapra, who explains that even as simple a past as the late 18th century depends on "Rhetoric for some historians a belief & for others a convenient fiction: the significance of the work of Christ in establishing a chronology in terms of 'before' & 'after'." Hayden White's influential work, Metahistory, opens with a chapter entitled "The Poetics of History". Another of his essays is called "The Historical Text as Literary Artifact". All history in this view, is ultimately a philosophic, its only meaning or "reality" being that which the historian chooses to give it in accordance with his temperament & disposition. The "fact" is little more than a "pretext" for the creative historian. Formerly, when historian invoked the idea & imagination, they meant the exercise of imagination required to transcend the present & immerse one in the past. Today, the imagination is to create a past in the image of the present & in accordance with the judgment of the historian. "Indeterminacy" is a standing invocation to creative or nihilistic historians to embark with a tabula rasa on which he may inscribe whatever interpretation he likes. Feminist history is consciously subversive. It rejects the idea of "mainstreaming" women's history into general history — the "add-women-&-stir" recipe. The new feminist history demands that all history be rewritten from a "consciously feminist stance" or "perspective". Why should the Black historian do the same — even such a history might "marginalize" whom? And why not the homosexual historian. Who might "marginalize" heterosexuals? If "Everyman his own historian" — why not "Every Black — White — Politician Man

...? to Nostalgize & particularize history to the point where people share no history in common. In France, the source of most of these fashions deconstruction is already passé, if only the appeal of novelty wears off. The "herd of brilliant minds" will find some other trope, right back to really Ground, & the Vanguard of today will find itself an aging rearguard. Gresham's law applies in history as surely as in economics: bad habits drive out good, easy methods drive out hard ones. And there is no doubt that the old history, traditional history, is hard.

The Caribbean poet Derek Walcott has won this year's Nobel Prize in literature, valued at £700,000. News of the prize was swiftly followed by reports that Walcott has been the subject of complaints of sexual harassment at both Harvard & Boston universities.

TLS, Oct. 23 1992

Edith Wharton's "Unpublished Fragment" describes her father Pa Rhinelander making love to herself with a intensity accused: "The father hand softly opened her legs, & began to skip up the old path it had so often travelled in darkness, but without full penetration by what they used, in their old joke, to call his third hand". The Rhinelander Fragment was discovered by Cynthia Griffin Wolff & was printed by R. W. B. Lewis in his Wharton biography of 1975. Wharton has now become "big business indeed." A Backward Glance (1933) is an evasive cover-story. Her marriage to Teddy Wharton was a painful disaster. After she fell passionately in love with a charming bisexual philanderer Morton Fullerton. In 1913 she divorced her husband

Anthony Thwaite, ed., Selected Letters of Philip Larkin "My mind has stopped at 1945 like some cheap wartime clock"; "Good God, every 'new young writer' I read seems worse than the last. John Braine—there couldn't be any other name for him. Oh yes there could: John Osborne" David Lodge, The Art of Fiction. Here is a feeling of other authors having to flatten themselves against the walls as Lodge holds the floor. Well into the 19th cent., when flat characters to make, with Christian Name and surname will generally appear in the title (Joseph Andrews, David Copperfield, Daniel Deronda): Now the protagonist is female (Evelina, Pamela, Emma) only the first is given, if it is, apparently that marriage is likely to change the surname by the end of the book.

TS. 1/8/1996

Most people find it difficult to accept that an event of such portentous consequences could have been engineered by a band of conspirators. They find it more natural to assume that causes commensurate in magnitude with effects. Millions being killed by millions. The assumption cannot withstand scrutiny. The First World War claimed ten million lives, and left twenty millions maimed by a thousand of shells; no historical precedent preceded its outbreak. The Holocaust, which ended the lives of six million Jews, was not ordered by one man. The Bolsheviks claimed the mandate of history. How else could one explain the Party's ability to withstand and survive the unprecedented upheavals of the past seventy years, allegedly without having had the benefit of a democratic mandate, or indeed any other legitimacy, was historical necessity, or destiny. Stalin's Marxism-Leninism justifies the title he assumed after the war: "Father of Nations". But to abandon the Dialectic notion of history, with its emphasis on the role of human agency, to a belief in a metaphysical process that is governed by immutable laws, is a metaphysical process nonetheless. To a group of such people as the Party clearly was, Marxism, as interpreted by German idealist philosophers, has often been described as a surrogate secularized religion in which the role of providence in history is replaced by the hand of God, and revolution serves as the Final Judgment. And practitioners of history as small as T. E. Richard Piper fail to perceive in the sources before us any indication of a higher purpose. They merely regard the ordinary individuals described in such documents as tools to be used or discarded at will, or to serve as guiding material for fantastic constructions designed by men who know no place.

It was forbidden, under Soviet rule, to speak of the "Great French Revolution"; the adjective "great" was reserved for the Bolshevik October. Upon the successful completion of the Davis Hedges & Reg. R. Jenkins, Harold Wilson was promoted from Grammar School to Oxford, just unlike them & the many anonymous "Other Ranks" of small colleges, evangelical Christianity & learned hard work, for which the Oxford of the grandees took them.

Lenin's racism in his letter: "Remember my song, how to Win the Next Election?" "Fuck for Strikes, Boring back the cab, Kick out the niggers, How about that?" To Winston Davis he confesses to the plunder, his car, his sofa, his time-emplotter & adds "Also got a new nigger for a neighbour..." "I Calm Farmer." "Of many nigger cousins I'm happy to say.

He presents a sanitized Larkin too in his selection of Larkin's letters

adrian Poole

Exit the sick doctor next door... I come to this." Y Vozo, the Cubana wonders "sisters he runs to."

TLS Nov 13, 1992

When a threat of nationalize in 1945, Wilhelm Furtwängler was secretly given a hearing by Albert Speer & disappeared over the Swiss border as far as he could. Almost everyone in a position of power in the Third Reich protected a small number of Jewish connections for one reason or another. Even Hitler had a few Jews whose lives were spared despite that he kept them both unmolested until the end of the war. Speer worked after the interests of a few Jewish artists whose talents he valued (e.g. Leo Slezak), until 1942 with the accord of Nov 1938.

One of Peter De Vries's characters observes of sex manuals: "Can't decide whether Anthony Burgess, A Handful of Air Photos or any mechanic having trouble with his engine: "Fuck it, the fucking fucker's fucking fucked." The Chinese name for "Red Cross" is "Hung Shi" for "Red" in Japanese-speaking English. "Rondon" is the British capital. Passengers on Japan Airlines would hear the stewardess's chilling intimation, "Flying time is 5 hours", followed after those five nerve-racking hours by the welcome "We hope you have an enjoyable flight." Translation is another field scattered with Colonel Bogey Memories an American film in which the phrase "Tanaka?" was mistaken for "Merci."

TLS, Nov. 20, 1992

Lydia Lopokova accepted J. M. Keynes's offer of a pet & put him on his pet. His sexually ambivalent nature was no protection against infatuation with her. Whatever the astonishment this caused in Bloomsbury that is remarkable, is that they lived happily ever after. If Bloomsbury frowned upon the match, so much the worse for Bloomsbury. Vanessa Bell, with whom Lydia had shared 46 Gordon Square, began a vendetta which was maintained until the death of the two old ladies, each living separate lives in their Sussex farmhouses within a mile of each other.

TLS, Nov. 27, 1992.

Year by year, Harry Truman's Presidency is becoming an ever more powerful legend in the American mind. Typical country music song "Harry, we need you now" which first appeared during the Clinton administration. Few Presidents have been so vehemently derided when they left office. Truman is appreciated as a folk-hero — a plain, simple man, decent & blunt. He had somehow become the ideal President of the U.S. in the post-war period. He was a precocious & ambitious boy.

His eyesight was extremely bad, & he had to wear thick glasses. As a result he could not take part in active sports. He took piano lessons, learned to be a fair cook. Spoke, read Japanese fluently. He could not afford to go to a private college, but found working farms where he did well. He was the last self-made President in American history. Marshall said to him once, at the end of his term: "The last time you & I sat across a conference table was at Potsdam. I must confess, I left you in very low esteem there. I loathed your taking the place of Franklin Roosevelt. I misjudged you badly. Since that time, you more than anyone else have saved Western civilization."

Bell first encountered Joachim von Ribbentrop commented on his stupidity, his vanity, his obsessive-ness, his pomposity or his senility. Appointed Ambassador to London in 1936 & Foreign Minister just two years later, he was loathed by the professional diplomats & despised by other Nazi bigwigs. Goebbels's verdict: "Bought his rank, married his money & climbed himself into his job." The British popular press dubbed him "Brickendrop". He acquired the pseudo-appellation "von" by getting himself adopted by a suitably named old lady who had lost her money in the inflation & was grateful for the monthly pension he was paying & accordingly he continued. Walter Hagen he was the "top people" in England, Evelyn Waugh: "The trouble is that they also know Ribbentrop."

Mrs Beeton is a figure of mythic power. Isabella Beeton died at the age of 27 in 1865, 4 yrs after the 1st edn of Beeton's Book of Household Management & 2 yrs before her husband, Sam, Son of the co-founder of Ward Lock, London publishing house, Mrs Beeton & her Book of Cookery & Household Management became the focal British legend of the 20th Cent.

Maria Giuseppina Giacosa, A Taste of Ancient Rome. Ancient Roman cuisine—with its stuffed dormice, salted fish sauce & roast flamingo—must be the final frontier for the jaded foodie. The mysterious "Apicius", a notorious generic pseudonym of the early Roman empire, has his name attached to many unappealing recipes. The dormice, jellyfish, stingray, boiled ostrich, & dead bees, & garum (the rotten fish sauce used instead of salt), are examples of "Apician" cuisine.

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